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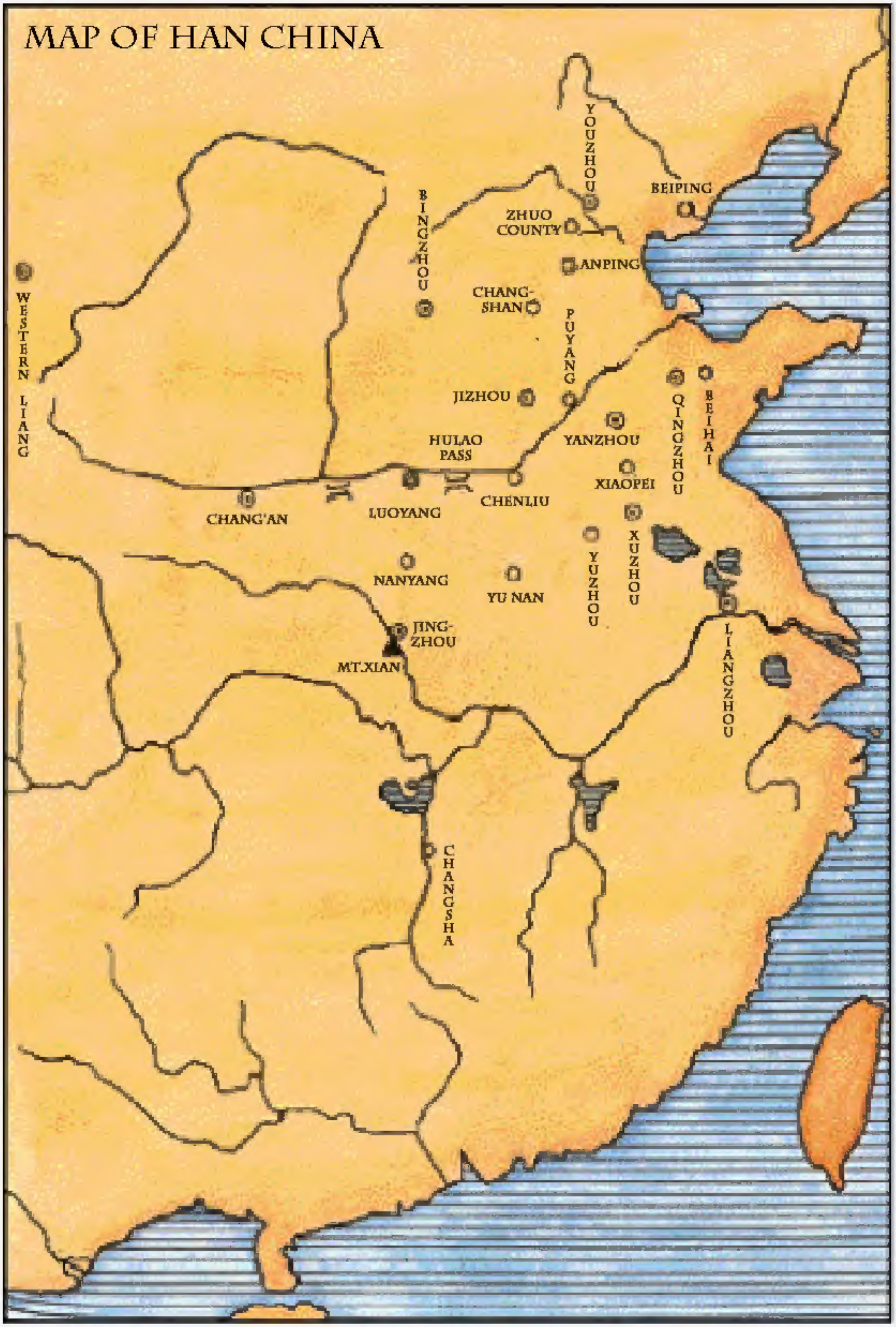
MAP OF HAN CHINA



SANGOKUSHI

5

ERADICATING DONG ZHUO

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 05 ERADICATING DONG ZHUO

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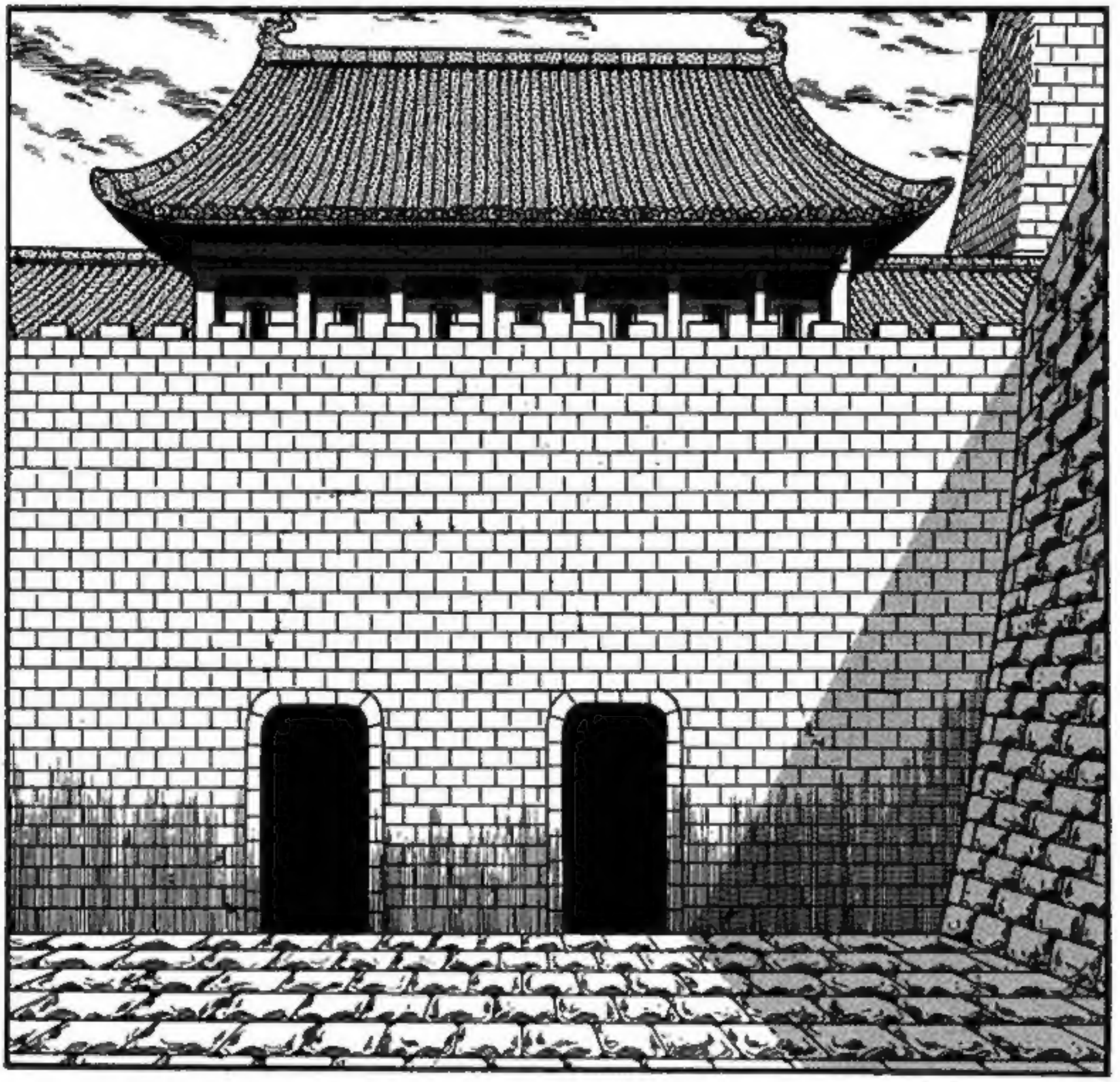
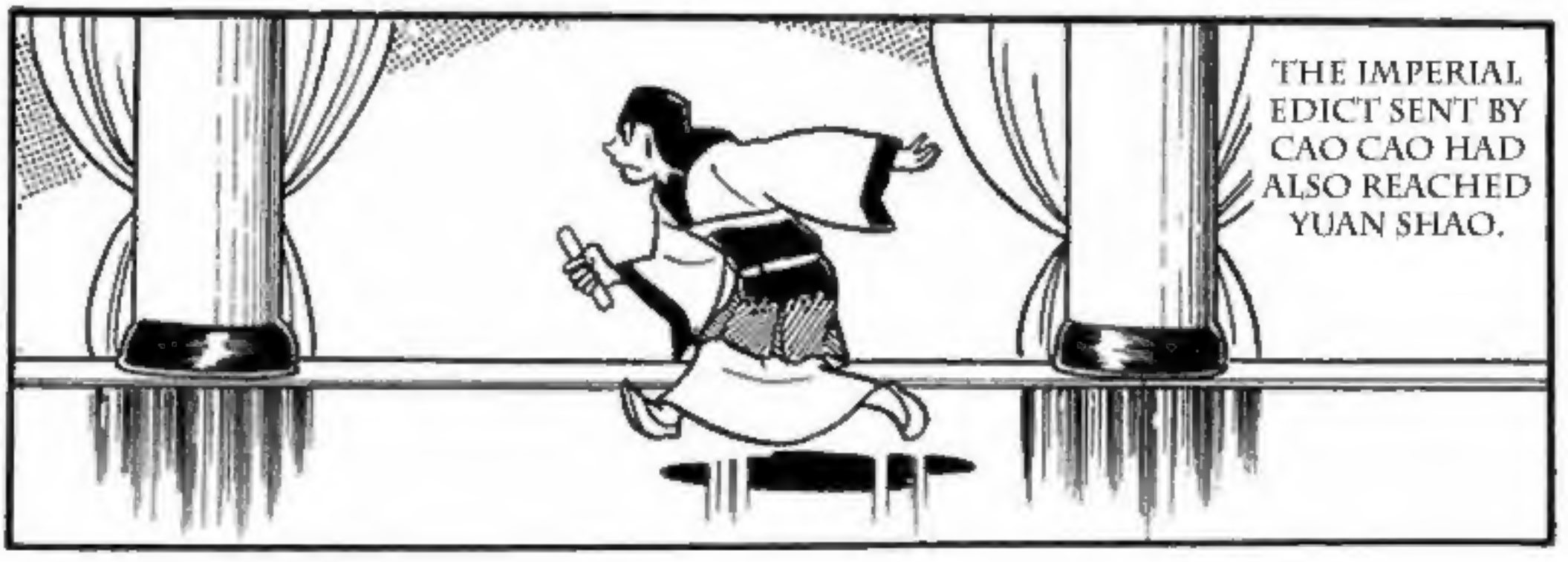
CALL TO ARMS




THE IMPERIAL EDICT SENT BY CAO CAO HAD ALSO REACHED YUAN SHAO.

YUAN SHAO, AS SOME READERS MIGHT RECALL, HE WAS FORMERLY GENERAL HE JIN'S TRUSTED AIDE WHO TRIED TO ELIMINATE ALL OF THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

WHAT DO ALL OF YOU MAKE OF THIS EDICT SENT OUT BY CAO CAO?

EVER SINCE DONG ZHUO HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF LUOYANG, YUAN SHAO HAD LEFT THE CAPITAL AND BEEN SERVING TERM AS THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI COMMANDERY.

BY COMBINING FORCES WITH CAO CAO, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO PUT AN END TO DONG ZHUO.

I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY. DONG ZHUO'S EVER INCREASING TYRANNY HAS BECOME TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

IS THIS NOT THE SIGN FROM HEAVEN THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR?

BUT SIR, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES HIM RECEIVING A REAL IMPERIAL EDICT MAKE? AS LONG AS WE ARE ACTING IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...

THAT SEEMS TO BE A RATHER IMPOSSIBLE CLAIM.

BUT I AM A LITTLE PUZZLED ABOUT THIS "IMPERIAL EDICT" CAO CAO CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED.

THAT IS TRUE...

ALRIGHT, PREPARE THE TROOPS!

AND SO YUAN SHAO HAD ANSWERED CAO CAO'S CALL TO ARM AS WELL.

WHOSE TROOPS ARE THAT OVER THERE?

HMM?

KONG ZHOU HAS ANSWERED THE CALL TO ARMS TOO, I SEE...

THEY BELONG TO YUZHOU'S GOVERNOR KONG ZHOU.

I SEE MORE TROOPS OVER IN THAT DIRECTION TOO SIR.

AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE WILL BE MORE AS WELL...

HMM, THERE ARE QUITE A BIT MORE FORCES THAT HAVE GATHERED THAN I EXPECTED.

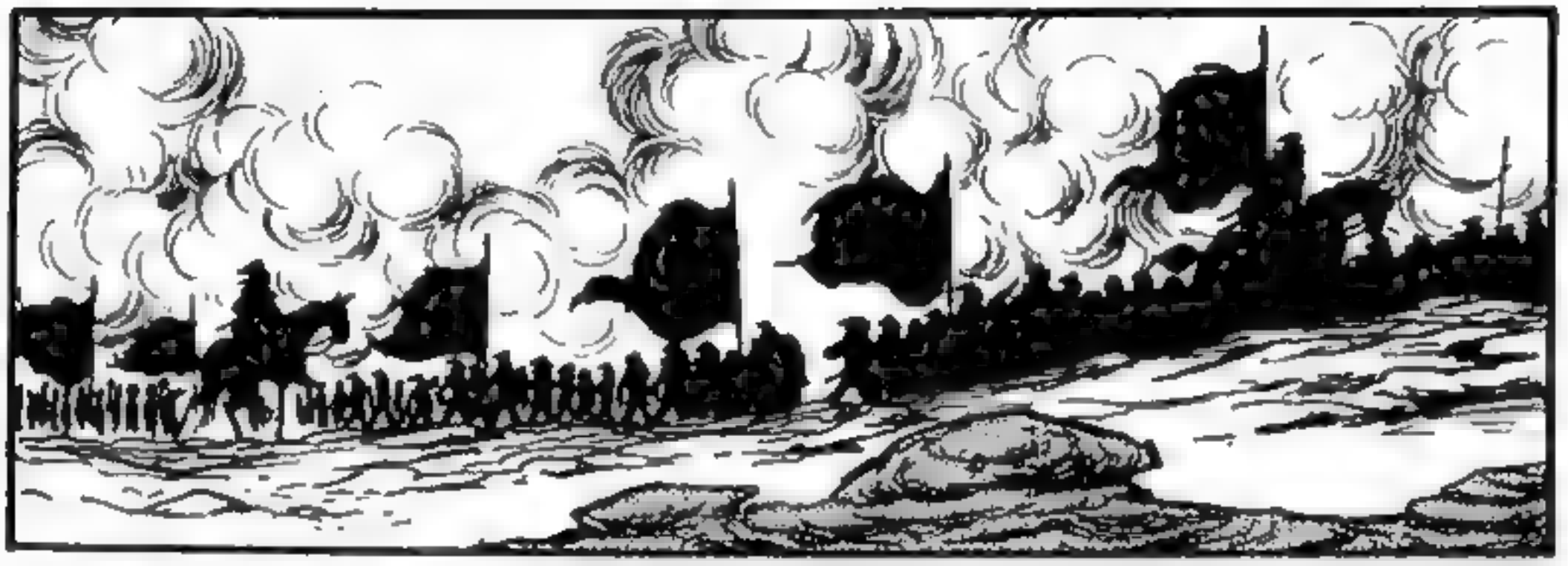
THOSE ARE YANZHOU'S TROOPS.

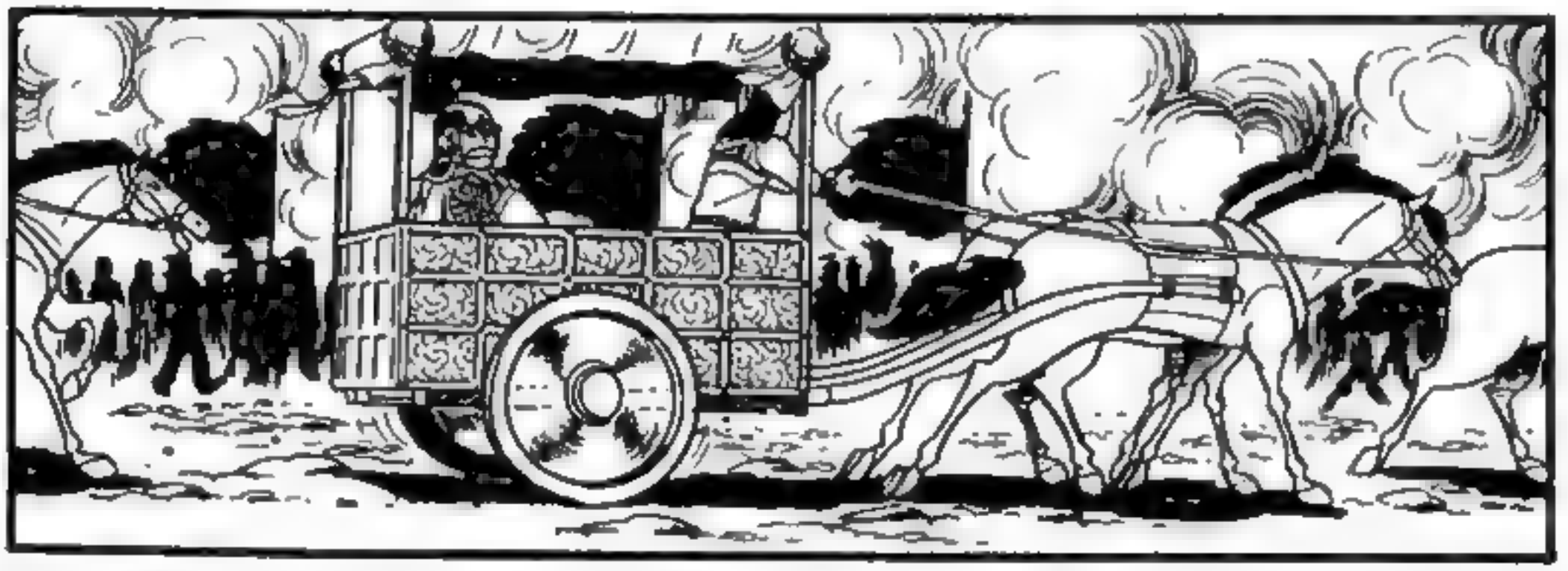
YES.

I SUGGEST WE HURRY TO THE MEETING POINT.

THIS GOES TO SHOW JUST HOW MUCH DONG ZHUO IS HATED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND.

ALRIGHT THEN, LET US MAKE HASTE AND NOT FALL BEHIND THE OTHER TROOPS!





WAIT! PLEASE STOP THAT CARRIAGE FOR A MINUTE!!

AND WHO ARE YOU!!

HMM!?

I HUMBLY REQUEST TO TALK TO GONGSUN ZAN, GOVERNOR OF BEIPING COMMANDERY.

WAIT, WE ARE NOT ANYONE SUSPICIOUS.

WE BEG YOU, SIR.

THE THREE OF US WISH TO JOIN YOUR FORCES AND FIGHT AGAINST DONG ZHUO AS WELL.

THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER SEEING YOU OUTSIDE LUOYANG AFTER THE YELLOW SCARF REBELLION WAS OVER!

WAIT A MINUTE... I FEEL LIKE I HAVE SEEN YOUR FACES SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

OHH, JUST AS I THOUGHT. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU ARE LIU BEI XUANDE, RIGHT?

YES, SIR.

AND JUST WHAT POST ARE YOU HOLDING THESE DAYS?

WHAT!?

I WAS WORKING AS A COUNTY MAGISTRATE BUT I HAVE BEEN INJUSTLY INCRIMINATED AND AM NOW ON THE RUN FROM THE LAW.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE A MAN AS TALENTED AS YOU WASTING AWAY THE REMAINDER OF HIS DAYS IN THE REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE.

TO THINK THAT A MAN WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH IN THE QUELLING OF THE REBELLION WOULD NOW BE ON THE RUN .

YES, OF COURSE! IN FACT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR *YOU* TO ASSIST *ME*.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU ACCEPT OUR REQUEST?

THESE TWO ARE MY SWORN-BROTHERS, GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

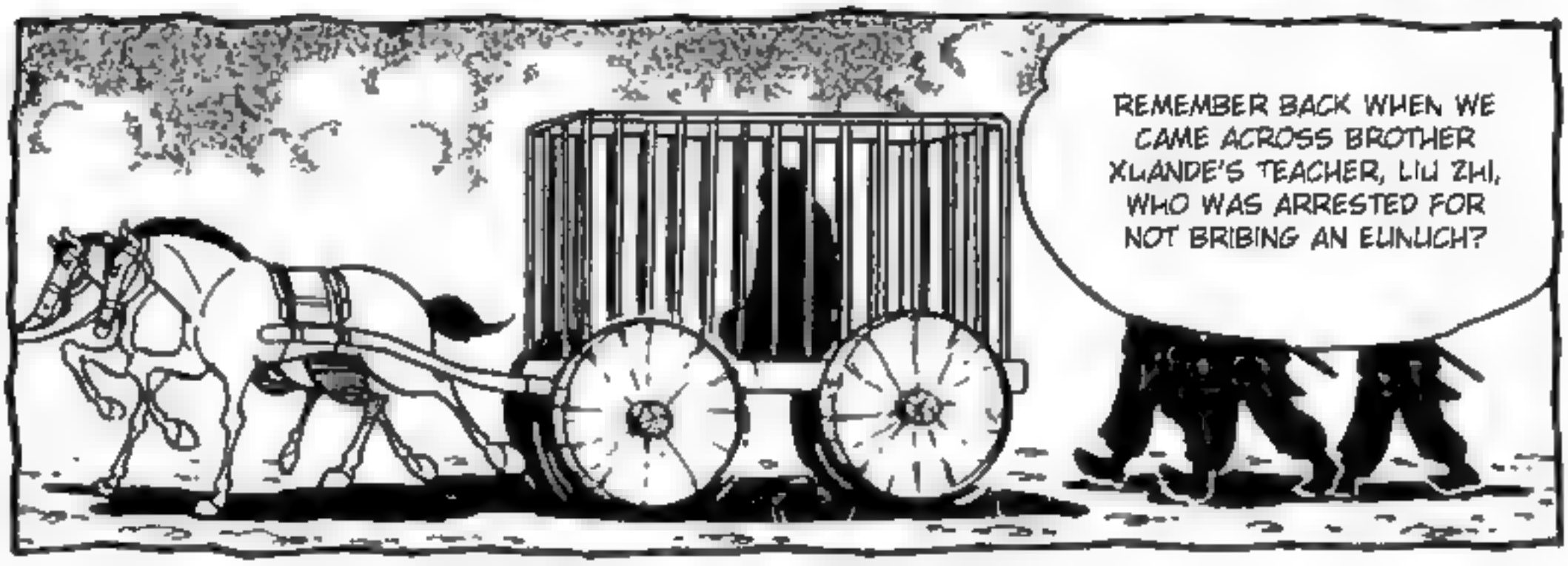
AND WHO ARE THE TWO STANDING BEHIND YOU?

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU SIR, WE SHALL DO OUR BEST TO BE OF USE.

WHAT, HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT TIME?
?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT YOU KNOW BROTHER, THE WORLD SURE CAN BE VERY STRANGE.


REMEMBER BACK WHEN WE CAME ACROSS BROTHER XUANDE'S TEACHER, LIU ZHI, WHO WAS ARRESTED FOR NOT BRIBING AN EUNUCH?

SHORTLY AFTER THAT, WE SAW FLEEING TROOPS BEING ATTACKED BY THE REBELS,

AND SO WE JUMPED OUT AND SAVED THEIR LIVES.

HMM, THAT WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.

GENERAL DONG ZHUO, THE ATTACKING REBELS HAVE RETREATED.

ESCORT THE TROOPS WHO SAVED MY MEN I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM.

AH, ARE YOU THE LEADER OF THE TROOPS WHO SAVED MY MEN?

WE COME FROM NO OFFICIAL UNIT.

WHICH UNIT MIGHT YOU BE FROM?

SO YOU'RE... PEAS-ANTS?

WHAT!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER ARMY THAT GATHERED TO BRING BACK PEACE TO THESE CHAOTIC TIMES.

HMPH, SO THEN THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO PERSONALLY SEE YOU.

YOU IDIOTS, MAKE SURE TO CHECK MORE THOROUGHLY NEXT TIME! DO YOU SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO TALK TO PEASANTS!?

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!

NNGHH!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF YOU ARE OF THE OFFICIAL ARMY? ARE WE NOT HUMAN AS WELL!?

ZHANG FEI, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

THESE WORTHLESS INSECTS THAT WE RESCUED FROM CERTAIN DEATH CAN'T EVEN SAY A WORD OF THANKS BUT WOULD RATHER INSULT US INSTEAD!?

LET ME GO, GUAN YU. I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!

I CAN STAND NOT BEING REWARDED BUT I CANNOT STAND BEING IGNORED AND INSULTED!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A VOLUNTEER ARMY!?

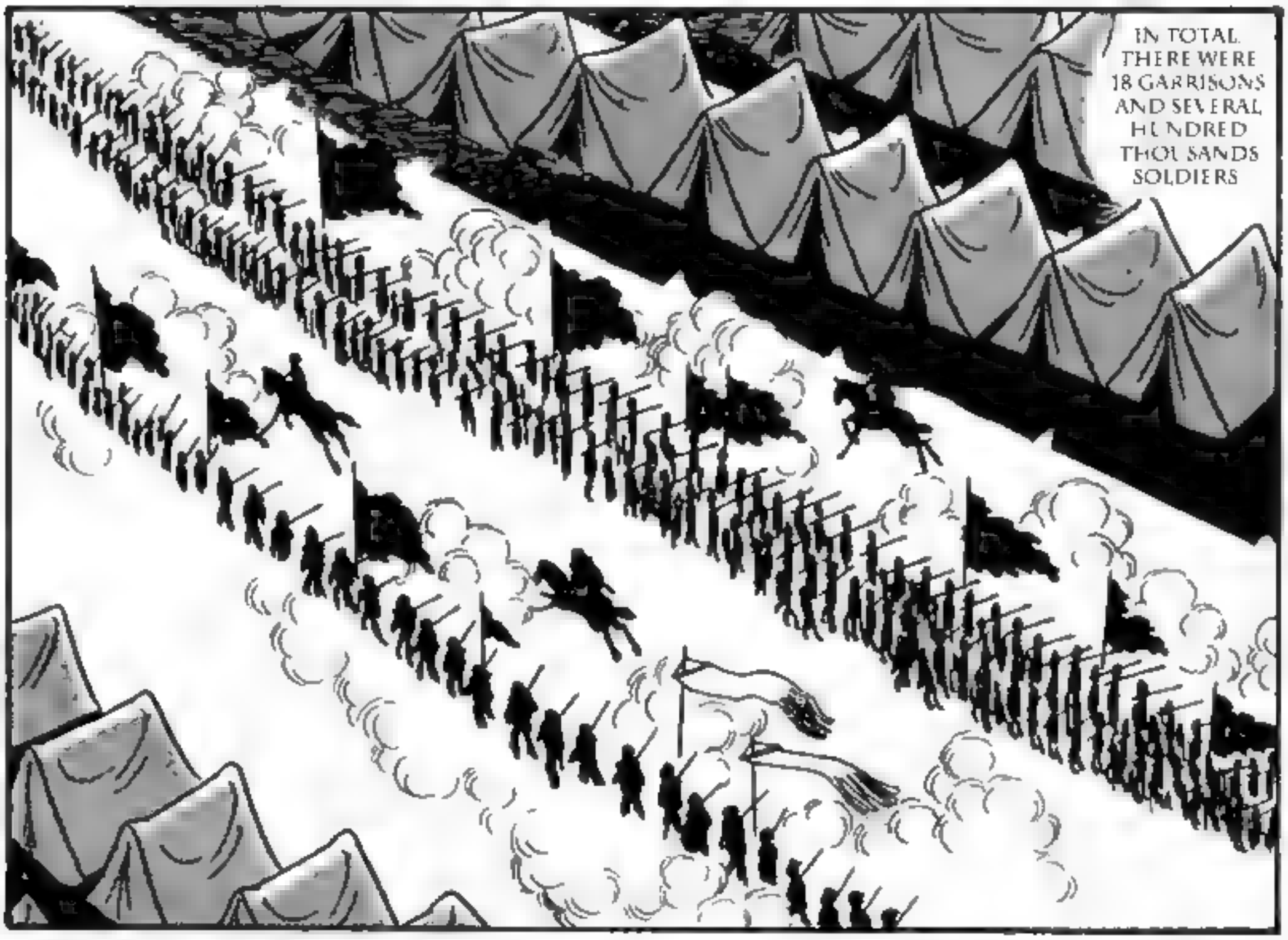
WE'RE WAY ABOVE THEM IF YOU COMPARE OUR LOVE FOR THIS COUNTRY!

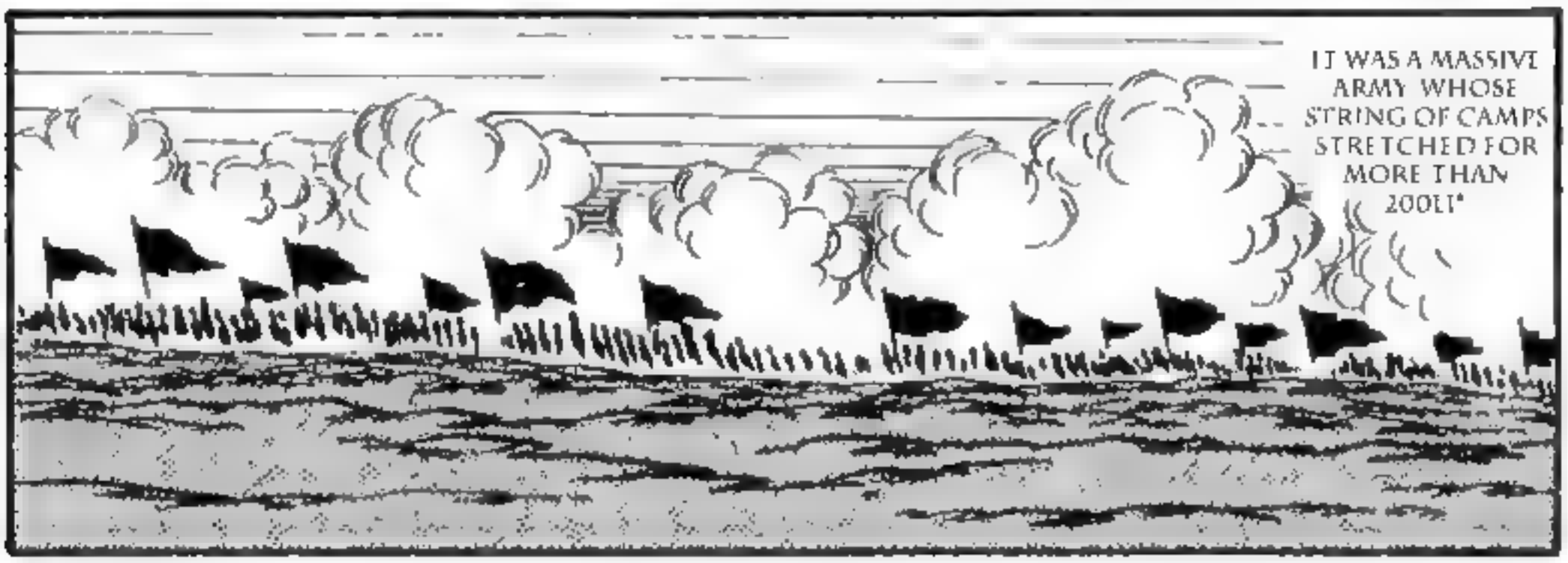
IF YOU JUST LET ME CUT OFF THAT SCUM'S HEAD BACK THEN, NONE OF THIS MESS WOULD'VE HAPPENED.

YES, YES, THAT'S ENOU-GH.

WELL!? DO YOU REMEMBER NOW!?

JUST DON'T HOLD ME BACK THIS TIME, ALRIGHT?





*ROUGHLY 500KM

CAO CAO, WITH THIS MANY SOLDIERS GATHERED, WE NEED A SUPREME COMMANDER TO SERVE AS THE LEADER FOR ALL OF US.

YES, I AGREE. OTHERWISE, OUR UNCOORDINATED ATTACKS WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING.

WHAT!?

THEN, I WOULD SUGGEST YUAN SHAO TO TAKE THAT POSITION.

YES, I AGREE WITH CAO CAO'S OPINION.

THE MEN OF THE YUAN FAMILY HAVE SERVED AS ESTEEMED LOYAL SERVANTS OF HAN FOR GENERATIONS AND HAVE OCCUPIED THE HIGHEST POSITIONS. AS SUCH, I BELIEVE GENERAL YUAN SHAO WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE.

I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

ALRIGHT THEN.

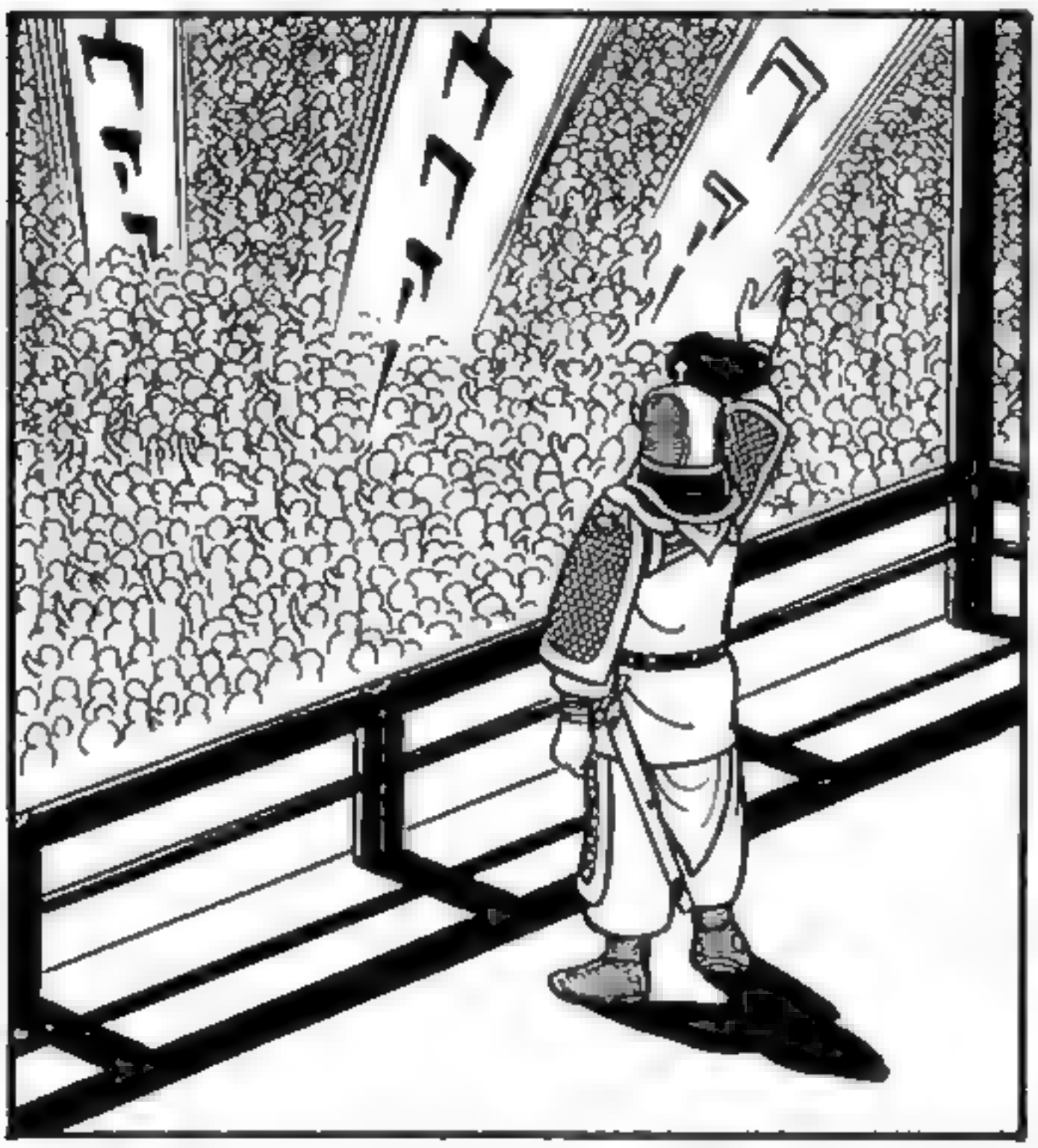
EVERYONE IS IN AGREEMENT, I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT.

THE PERFECT LEADER FOR US!

NEITHER DO I.

THE CEREMONY FOR YUAN SHAO'S INDUCTION AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER SHALL NOW COMMENCE!

I SWEAR TO THE HEAVENS THAT I, YUAN SHAO, RECOMMENDED BY THE PEOPLE, WILL ACCEPT THIS POSITION AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER AND WILL CEASELESSLY WORK TO FREE THE IMPERIAL COURT AND PALACE FROM TYRANNY AND RELIEVE THE PEOPLE'S SUFFERING.



I SHALL APPOINT MY TALENTED YOUNGER BROTHER YUAN SHU AS THE PROVISIONS OVERSEER TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGES IN THE RATIONS.

I SHALL REWARD THOSE WHO SUCCEED AND PUNISH THOSE WHO COMMIT ANY OFFENSE.

GENTLEMEN, I AM YOUR NEW COMMANDER FROM HERE FORTH.

IS THERE ANY WHO WISHES TO LEAD THE ATTACK ON SISHUI PASS?

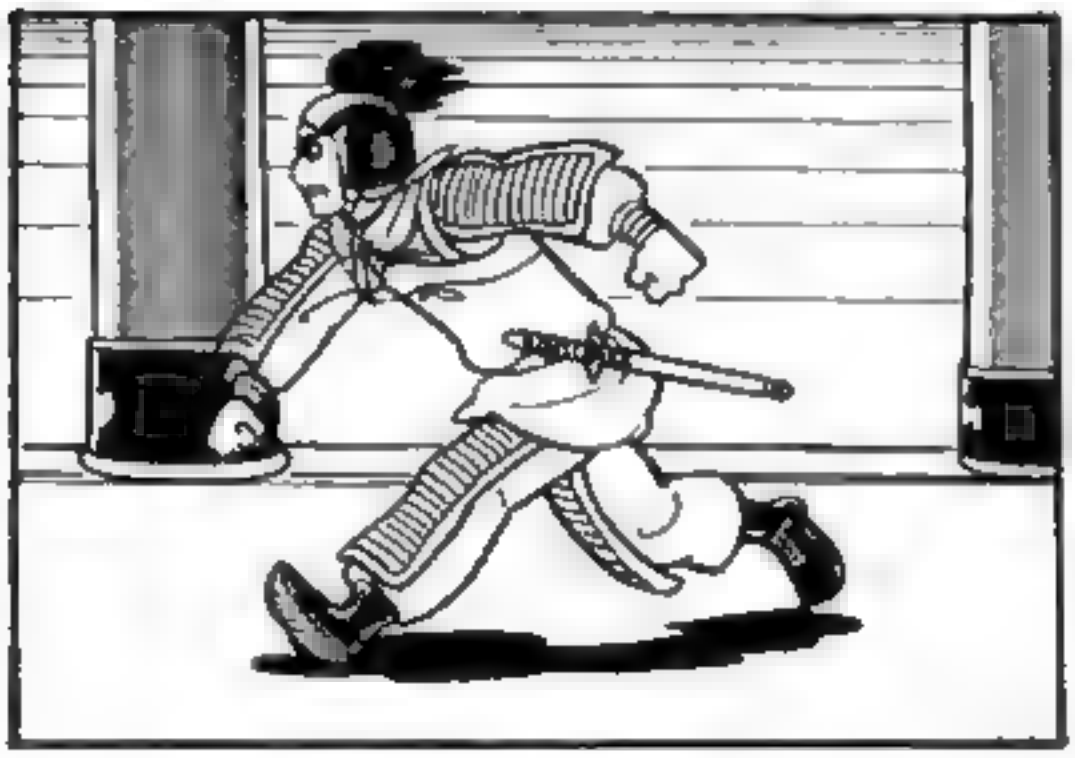
NOW LET US HEAD NORTH AND CRUSH DONG ZHUO.

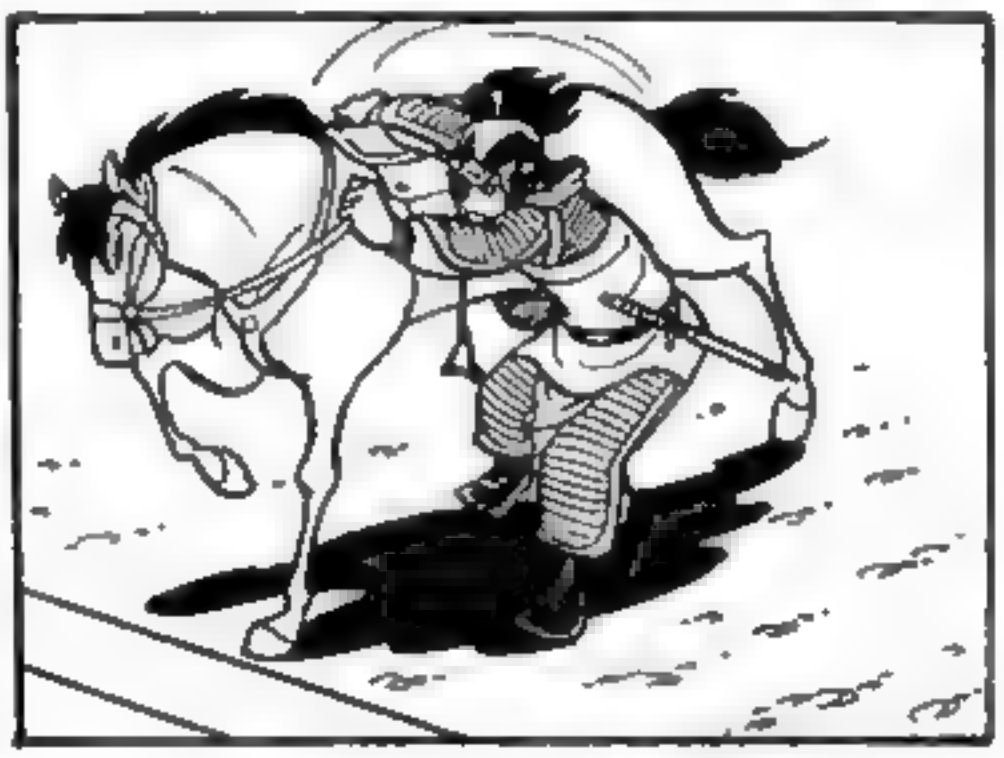
I SHALL UNDERTAKE THAT TASK!

AHH!

IT'S SUN JIAN, GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA COMMANDERY

SISHUI PASS





REBEL FORCES HAVE TAKEN UP ARMS!

WHAT!?

WHAT IS IT?

SIR, I HAVE AN URGENT REPORT TO MAKE!!

IT WAS PLANNED BY CAO CAO AND THEY ARE BEING LED BY YUAN SHAO.

AND!?

THAT MANY...!?

THEY NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS AND ARE HEADED TOWARDS LUOYANG THIS VERY MOMENT, SIR!

URGENT REPORT!

SUN JIAN!? YOU MEAN, THE GOVER-NOR OF CHANGSHA!?

LI RU, JUST HOW SKILLED IS THIS SUN JIAN?

CHANCELLOR! SUN JIAN, THE MARQUIS OF WUCHENG, IS LEADING THE REBEL'S FIRST ATTACK ON SISHUI PASS AND THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN SIGHTED NEAR!

SUN TZU? YOU MEAN HE'S THE DESCENDANT OF THAT FAMOUS TACTICIAN!?

HE IS SAID TO BE VERY SKILLED AND IS EVEN THE DESCENDANT OF THAT FAMOUS SUN TZU.

WHEN SUN JIAN WAS 17 YEARS OLD, HE CAME ACROSS A PIRATE CREW THAT WAS UNLOADING PILLAGED GOODS.

THERE IS ALSO A WELL KNOWN STORY ABOUT SUN JIAN THAT GOES LIKE THIS.

BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE TOOK OUT HIS SWORD AND CUT OFF THE PIRATE CAPTAIN'S HEAD WITH ONE SWING.

HE THEN CALMLY WALKED UP ONTO THE PIRATE SHIP. NONE OF THE PIRATES THOUGHT THAT A SINGLE YOUNG BOY WAS THREATENING ENOUGH TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO.

HE THEN PROCEEDED TO SLAUGHTER THE REST OF THE CREW.

I SEE... SO HE IS A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH...

THE FEW REMAINING PIRATES TOOK FLIGHT AFTER BEING SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS. THIS EVENT HAS MADE THE NAME SUN JIAN KNOWN ACROSS THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE LAND.

WHO SHOULD I SEND...?

THEN WE MUST SEND A SKILLED GENERAL FROM THIS SIDE AS WELL...

W-WHO IS THAT?

WHAT IS TROUBLING MY LORD SO MUCH? PLEASE LEAVE THE LIKES OF YUAN SHAO AND CAO CAO FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF.

HAS SIR NOT PRESENTED ME WITH THE FAMED RED HARE FOR TIMES LIKE THESE?

OHHH, LU BU!!

SIR, PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE. WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, I CAN RELAX COMFORTABLY.

I CAME AFTER HEARING THE NEWS ABOUT THE REBELS.

OHH, GENERAL HUA XIONG!

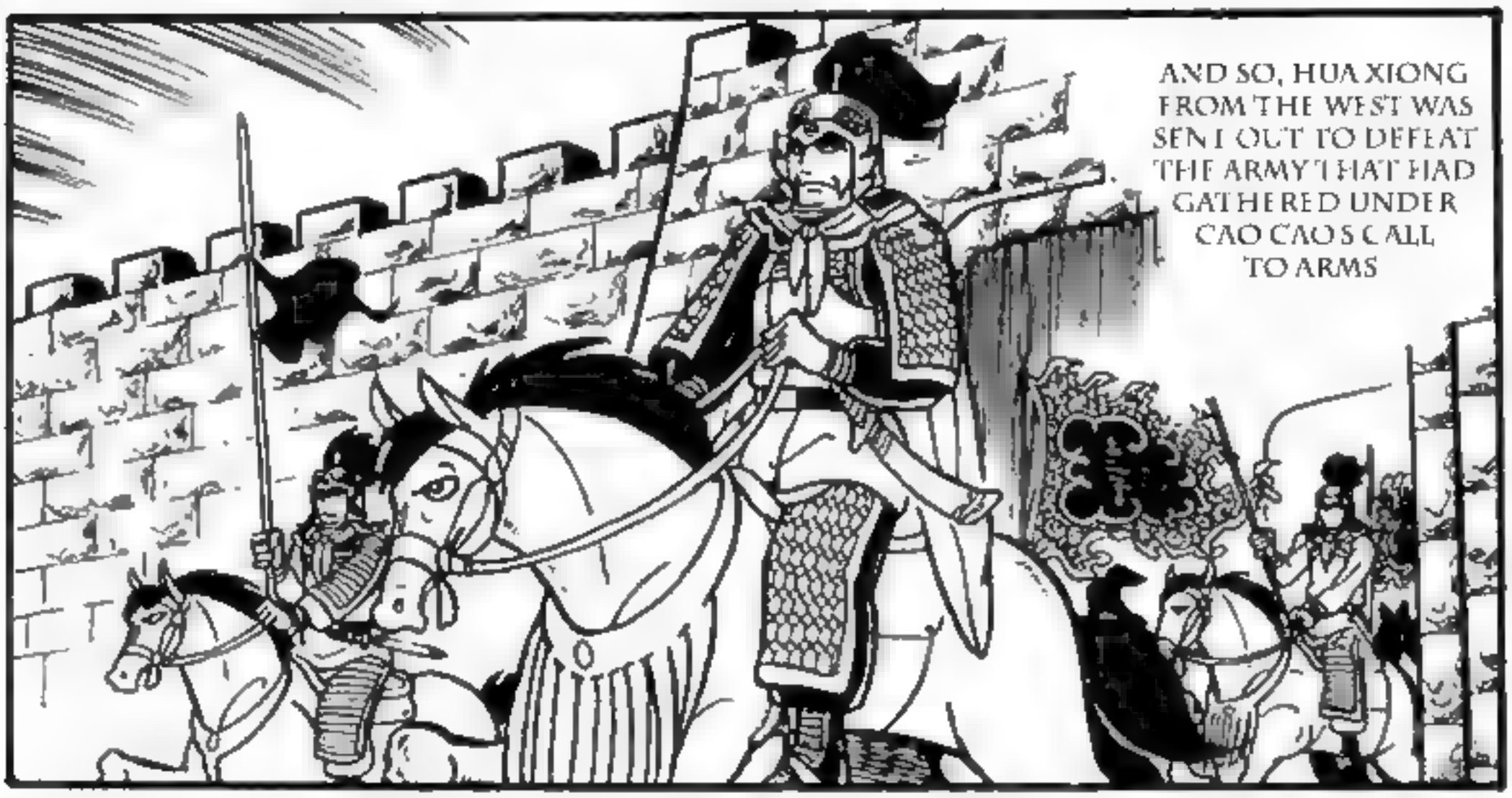
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHOW HOW EASILY I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE LIKES OF SUN JIAN.

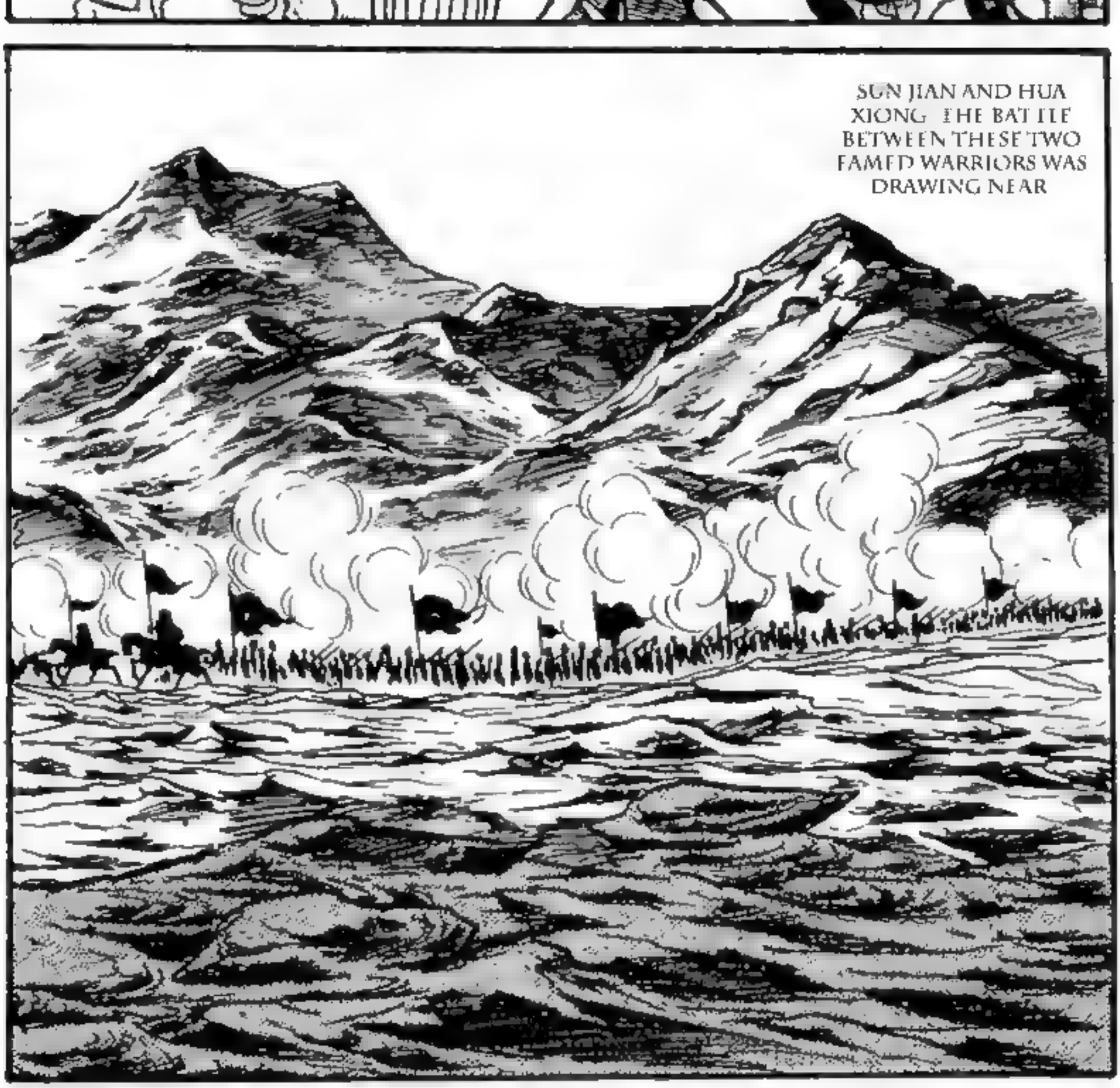
ALRIGHT THEN, I SHALL LEAVE THE DEFENSE OF SISHUI PASS TO YOU, HUA XIONG.

HAHAHA! WHAT RELIABLE MEN I HAVE SERVING ME!

GOOD, GOOD.

THANK YOU SIR, I WILL MOST DEFINITELY BRING BACK WORD OF VICTORY.


AND SO, HUA XIONG FROM THE WEST WAS SENT OUT TO DEFEAT THE ARMY THAT HAD GATHERED UNDER CAO CAO'S CALL TO ARMS

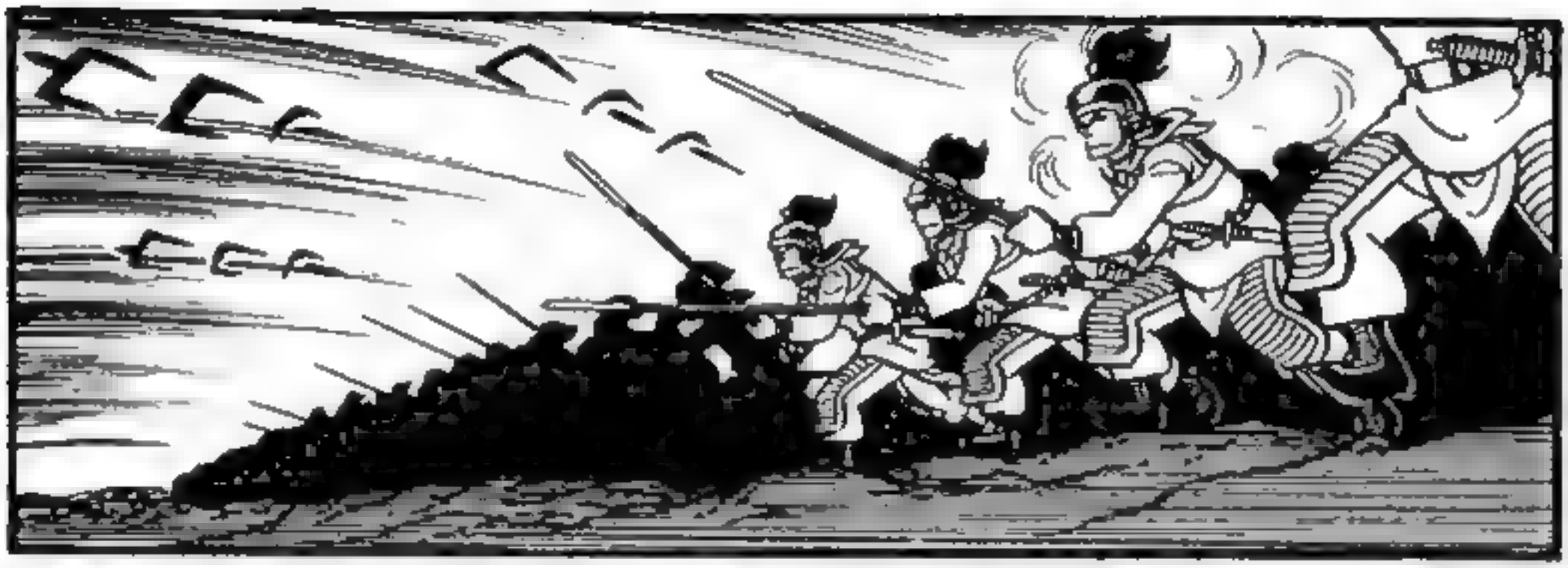

SUN JIAN AND HUA XIONG. THE BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO FAMED WARRIORS WAS DRAWING NEAR

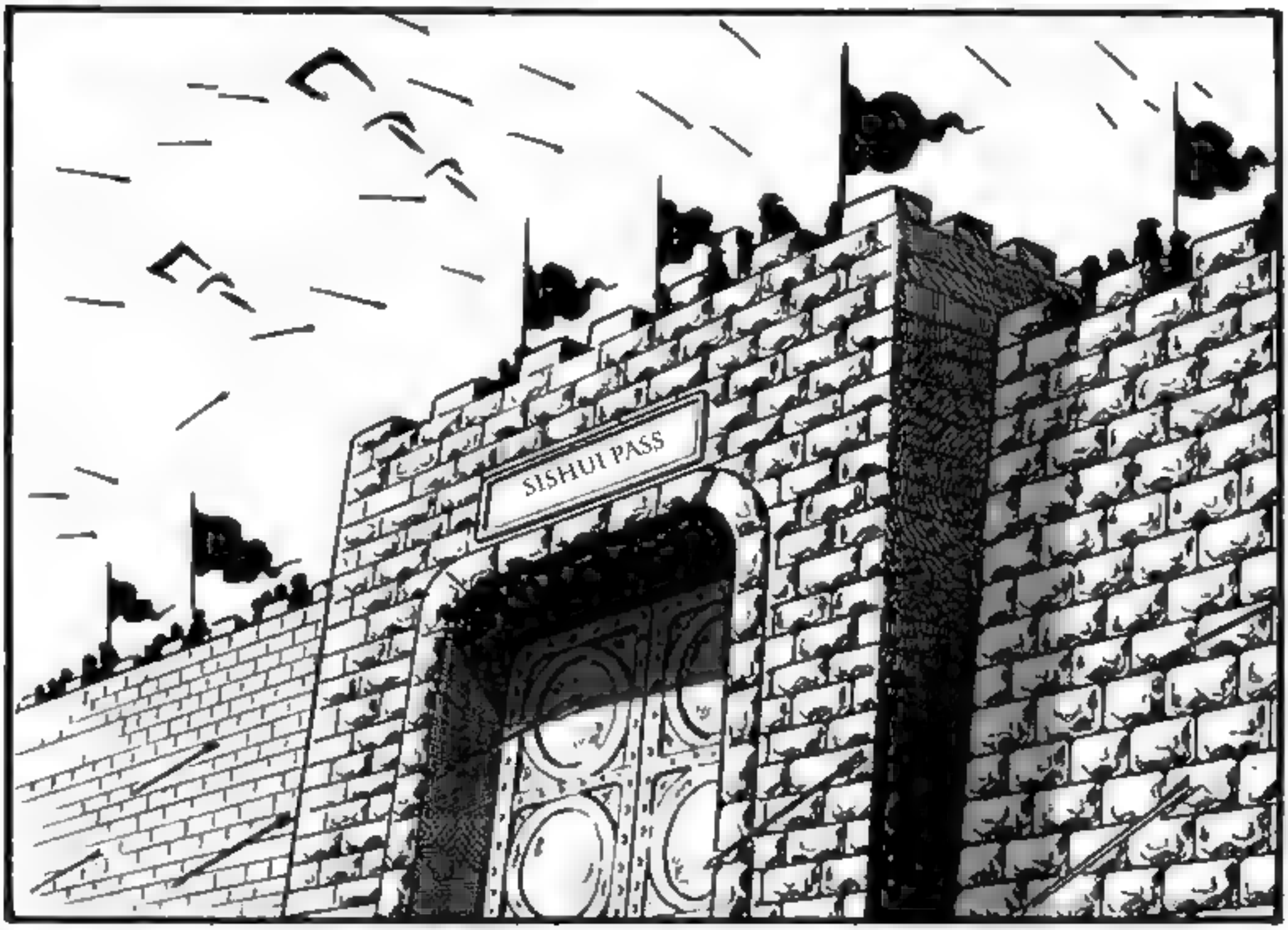
SISHUI PASS

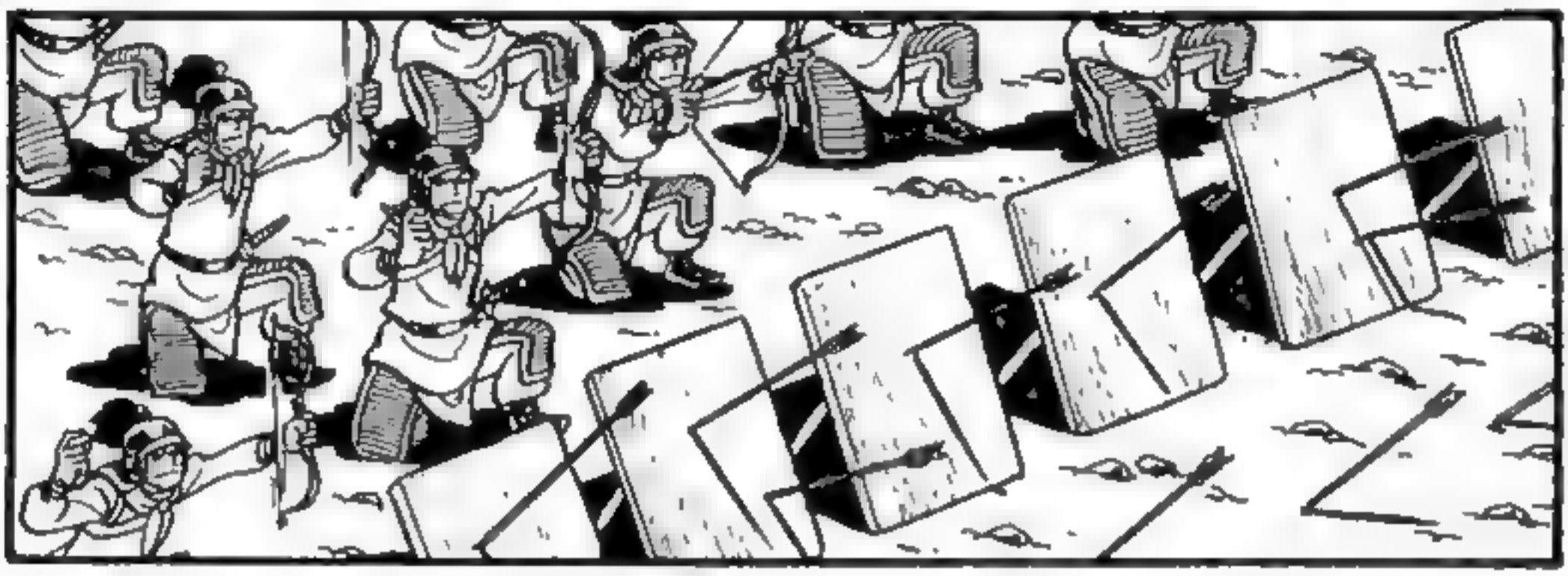
HMM, A WORTHY OPPONENT INDEED.

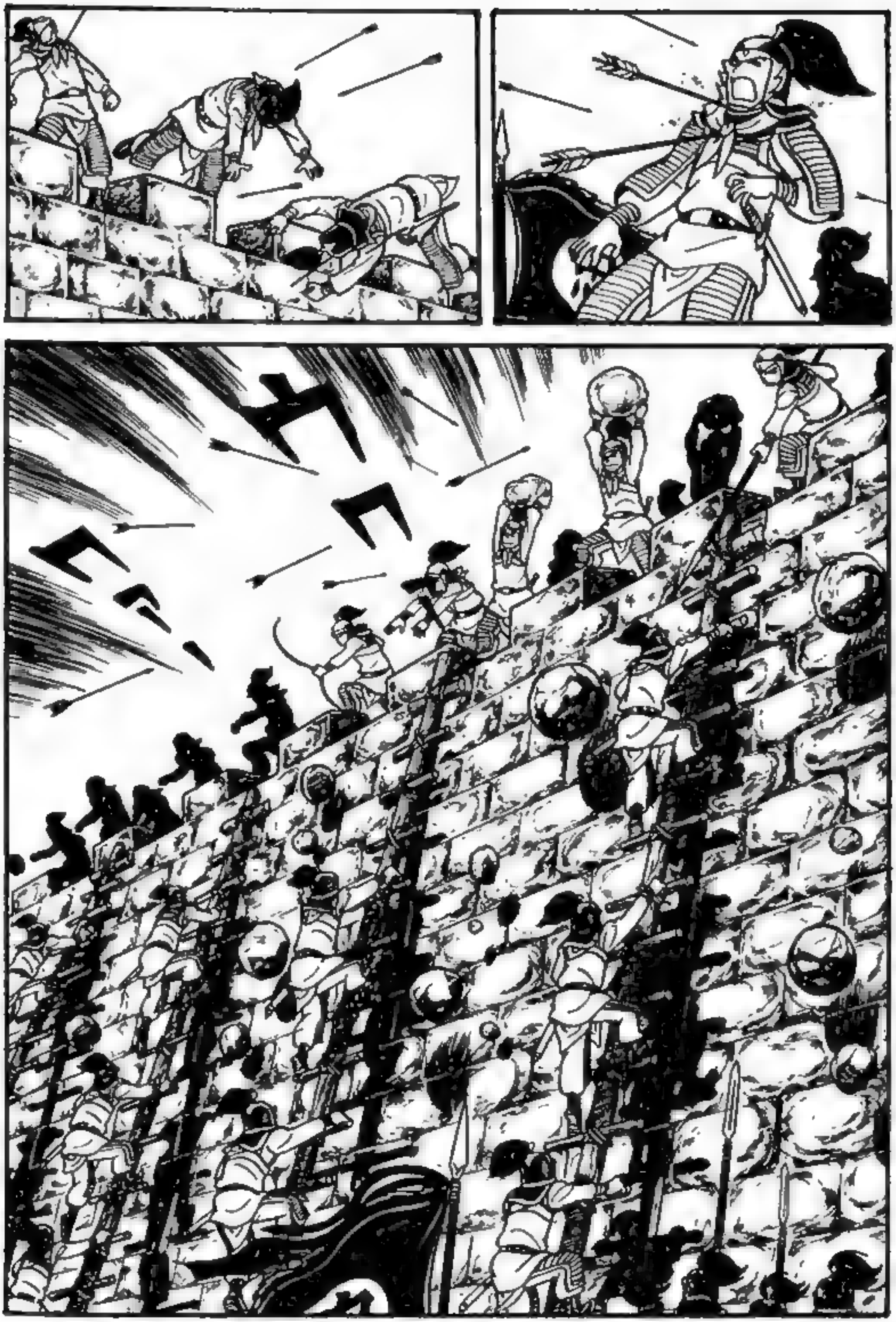
THOSE ARE THE GATES OF SISHUI PASS, GENERAL. HUA XIONG IS SUPPOSEDLY GUARDING IT.

ALRIGHT MEN, LET US BEGIN THE BATTLE AND STRIKE FEAR INTO OUR ENEMIES' HEARTS!




SISHUI PASS





IS THERE ANY WHO THINKS THEY CAN BRING ME BACK SUN JIAN'S HEAD!?

NOT BAD, SUN JIAN...

AH, MY SECOND IN COMMAND, HU ZHEN.

JUST GIVE THE ORDER TO ME, SIR!

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, TAKE 5000 SOLDIERS OUT AND BRING ME HIS HEAD.

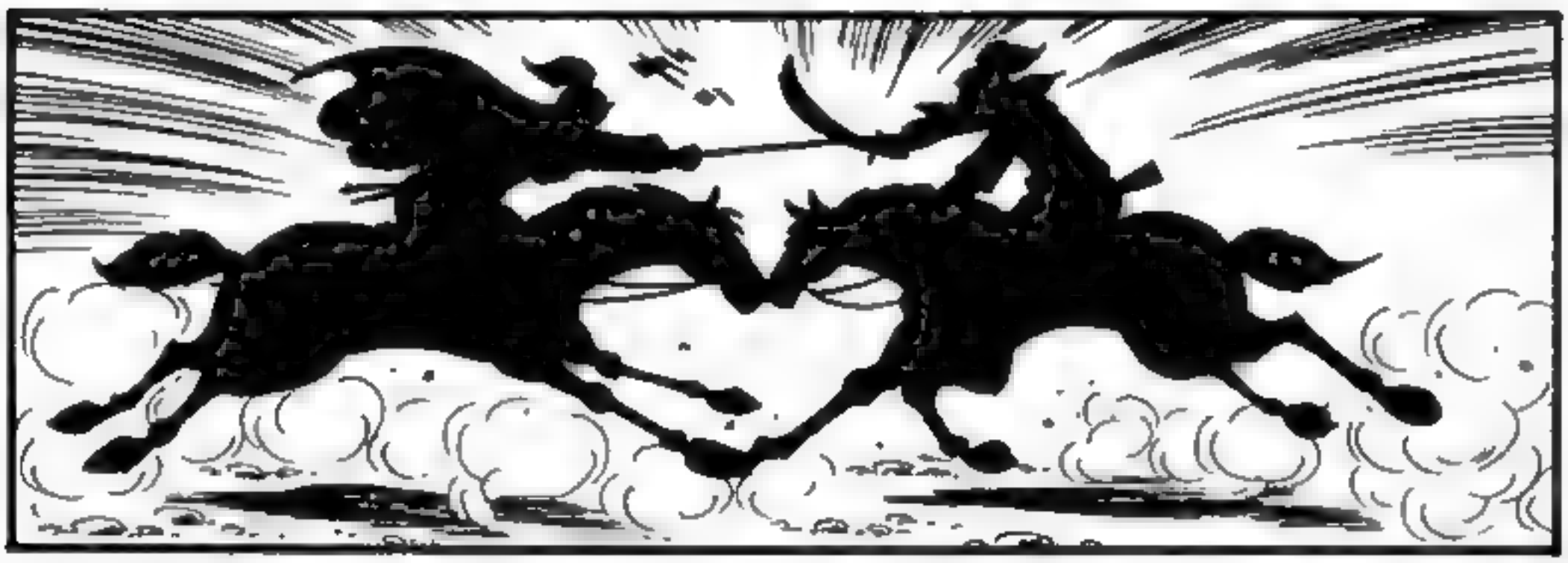
CHARGE!! OUR TARGET IS SUN JIAN!!

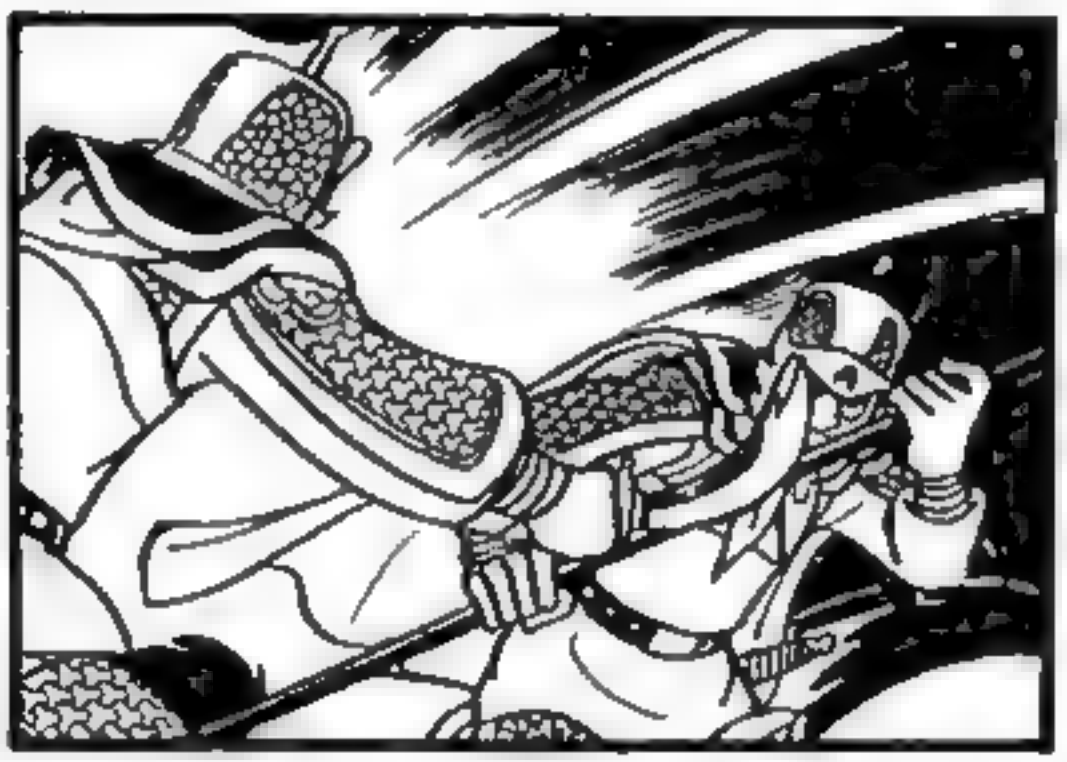
COME OUT! HAVE YOU TURNED TAIL, SUN JIAN!?

WHERE IS SUN JIAN!? HUA XIONG'S SECOND IN COMMAND, HU ZHEN, SHALL BE YOUR OPPONENT!

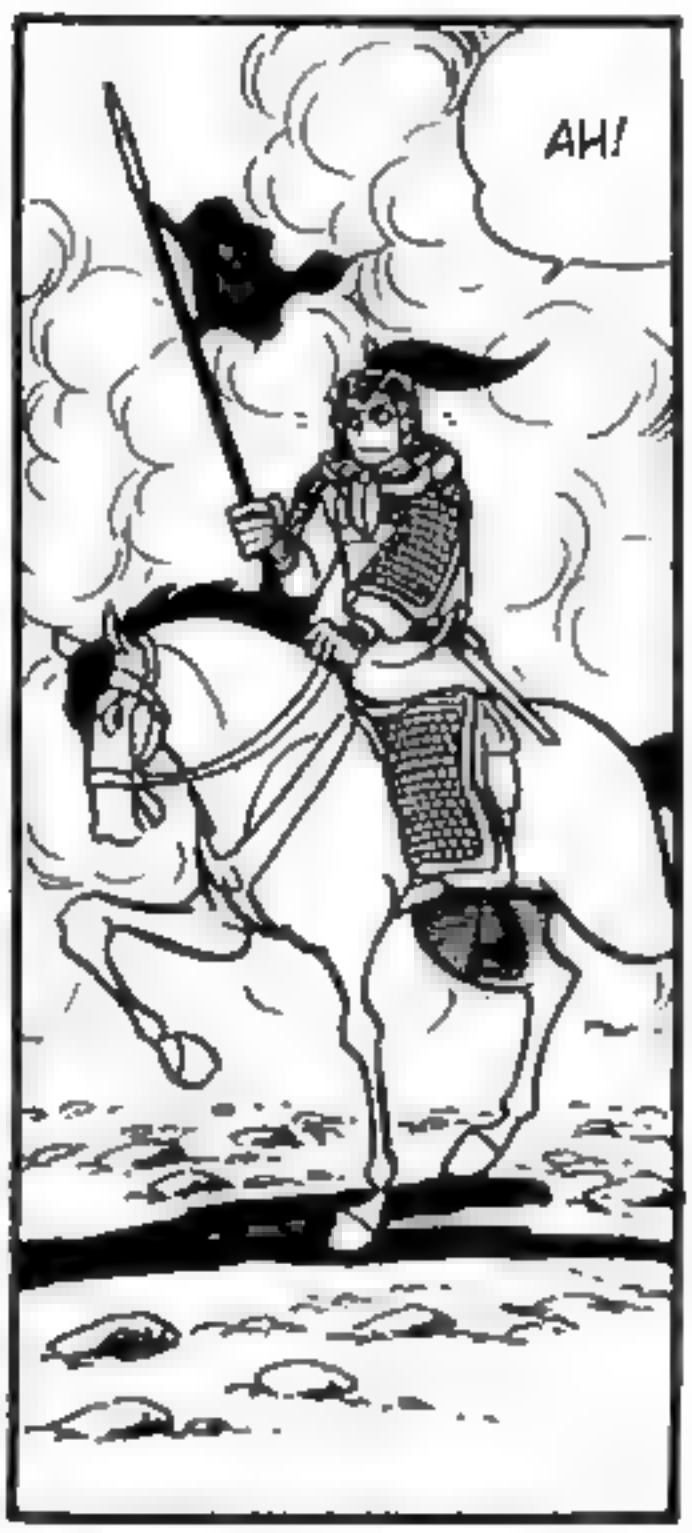
THEN FIGHT ME!!

I, SUN JIAN, AM RIGHT HERE!!

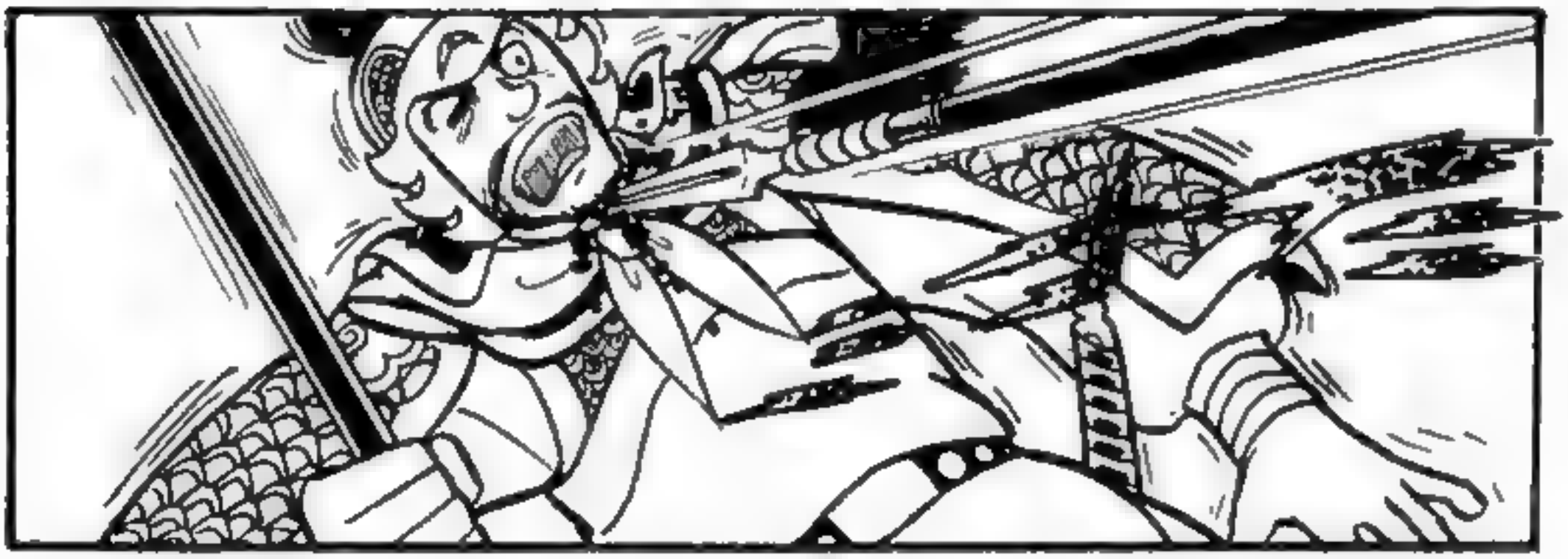




THAT MAN IS NOT A WORTHY OPPONENT FOR YOU SIR, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIM!

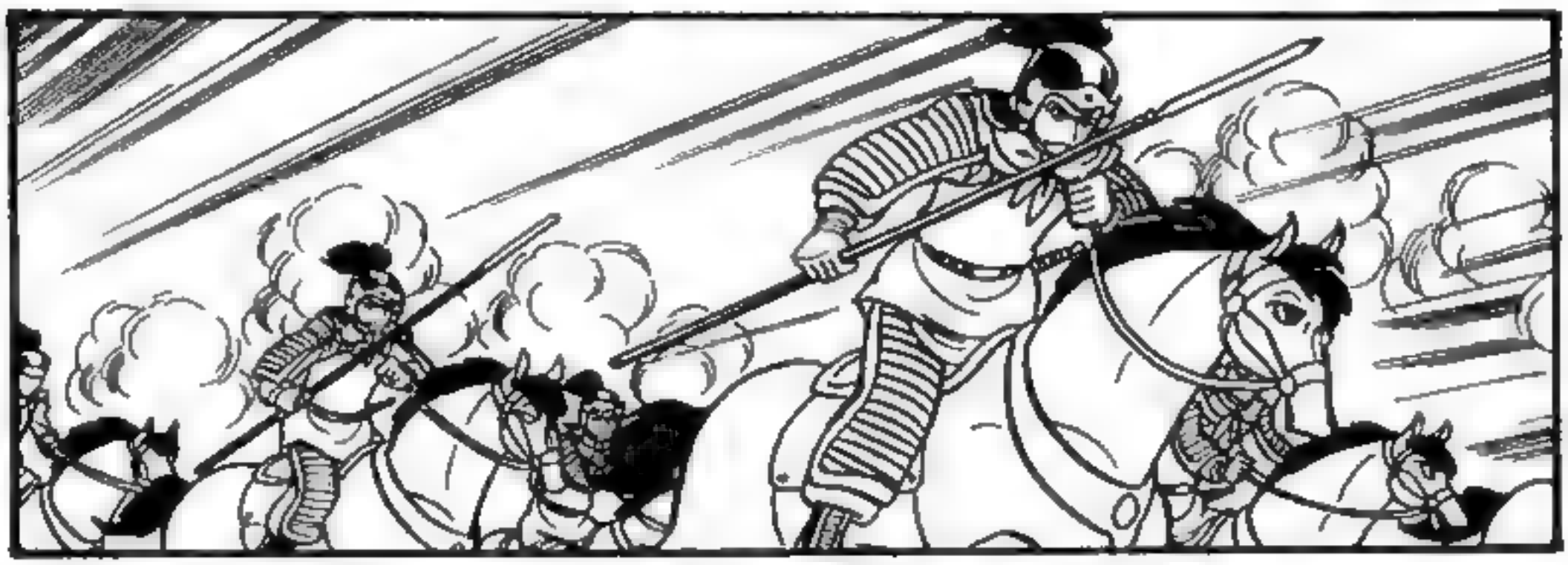

AH!

TAKE THIS!!



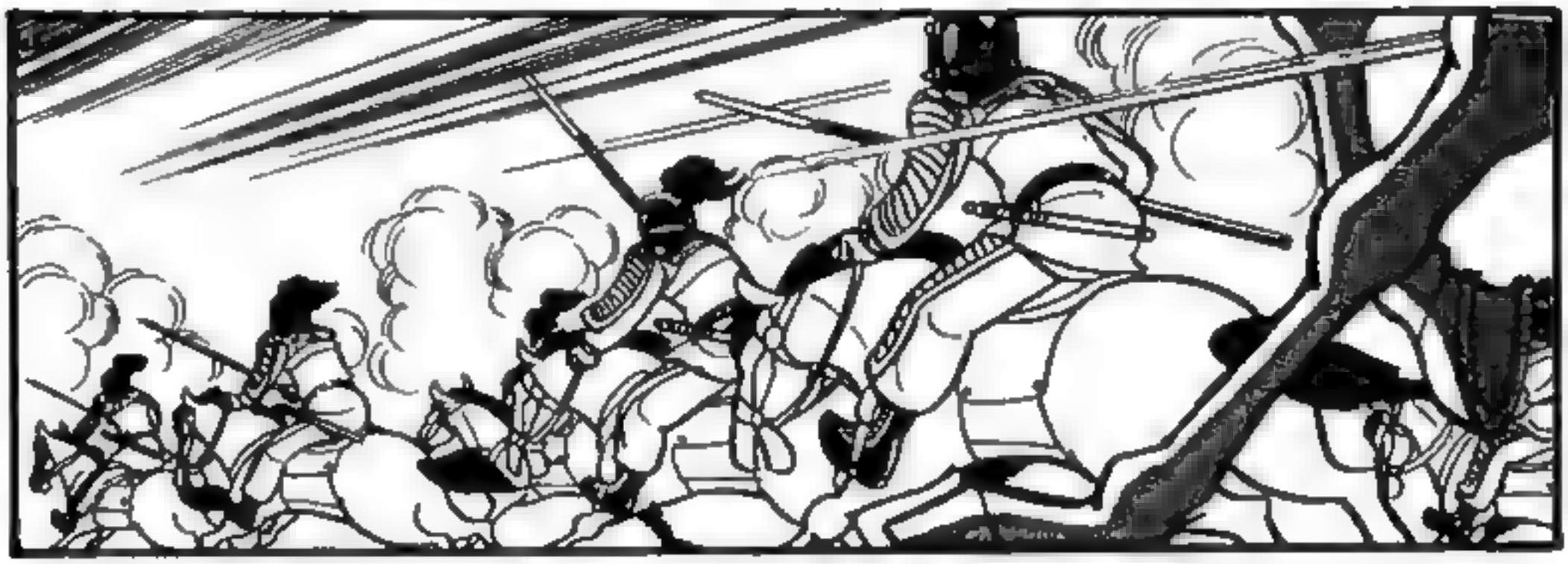
RETREAT!
RETREAT!

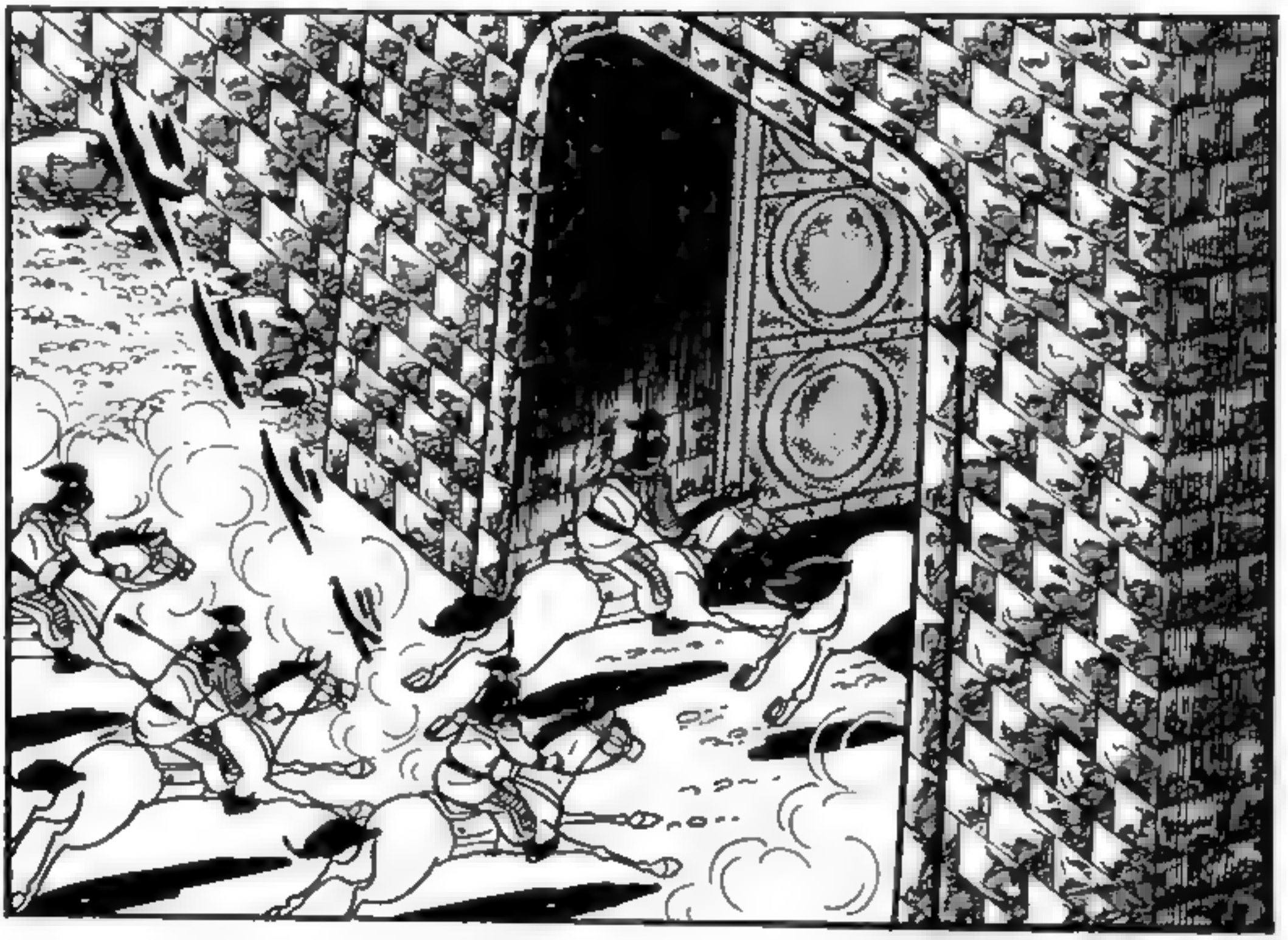
AGHH! THEY TOOK DOWN OUR LEADER HU ZHEN!!



THE ENEMY IS IN DISARRAY AFTER LOSING THEIR COMMANDER! ATTACK!!

NOW, CHASE AFTER THEM!!





ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW. PULL BACK! THERE IS NO NEED TO INCREASE ANY MORE CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE.

SUN JIAN'S FORCES RETREATED AS SPLENDIDLY AS THEY HAD ATTACKED

SUN JIAN HAS ALSO SENT A REQUEST FOR MORE RATIONS.

UNDERSTOOD, SEND IT TO THEM RIGHT AWAY.

IT SEEMS THAT SUN JIAN IS FARING WELL IN BATTLE.

HMM, SO THIS IS THE HEAD OF HUA XIONG'S SECOND IN COMMAND, HU ZHEN?

WITH THIS, THE MORALE OF OUR TROOPS IS BOUND TO INCREASE.

HMM?

I ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER SENDING THE RATIONS.

GENERAL.

IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT HE IS AIMING TO RULE THIS COUNTRY HIMSELF ONE DAY. THE REASON WHY HE ASKED TO LEAD THE FIRST ATTACK MIGHT ALL BE FOR THIS GRAND SCHEME OF HIS.

SUN JIAN IS A MAN KNOWN AS THE FIERCE TIGER FROM THE EASTERN SIDE OF YANGTZE RIVER. IF HE DEFEATS DONG ZHUO AND CAPTURES LUOYANG, IT WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO REPLACING A WOLF WITH A TIGER.

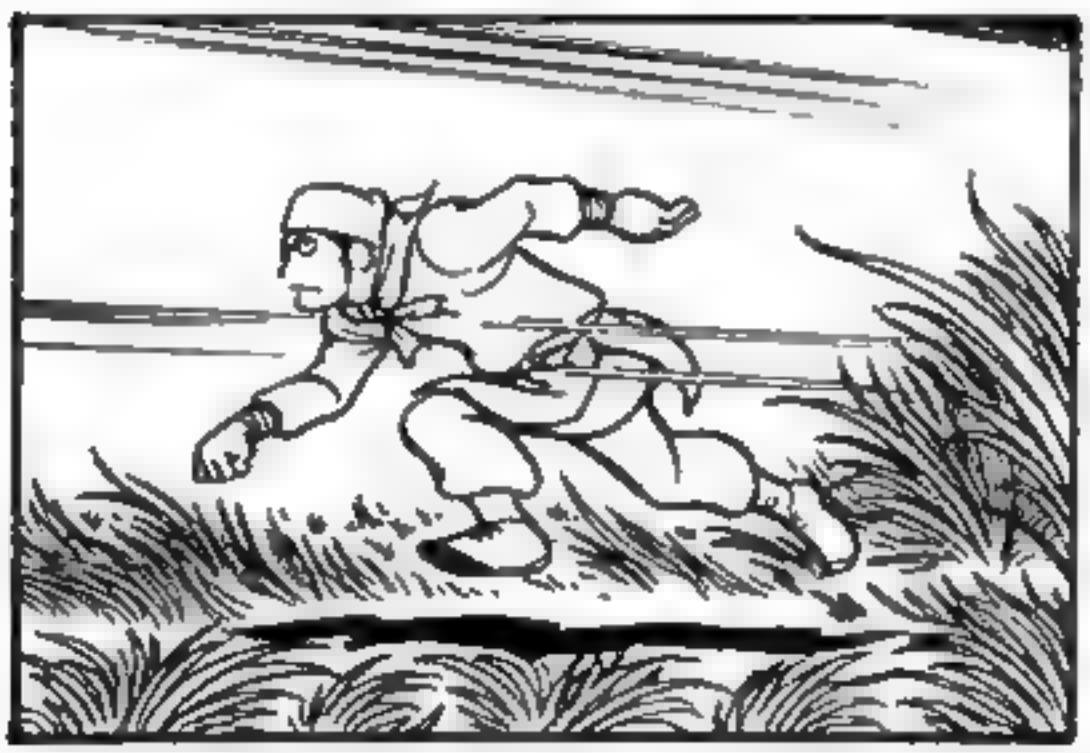
BY NOT SENDING HIM ANY MORE RATIONS, HIS TROOPS WILL BE SURE TO DISBAND WITHIN TIME, SIR!

HMM... YOU DO HAVE A POINT..

OUR SOLDIERS ARE ALL WEAK AND TIRED, SIR.
YES SIR, NOT EVEN A SINGLE CART'S WORTH...
HAVE THE RATIONS STILL NOT YET ARRIVED?

JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THE COMMANDER THINKING!? DOES HE SERIOUSLY EXPECT US TO FIGHT WITHOUT ANY FOOD!?

SUN JIAN HAD NEVER IMAGINED EVEN IN HIS DREAMS THAT HE WOULD BE ATTACKED NOT BY HIS ENEMIES BUT RATHER BY HIS OWN SIDE.



WHAT, YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT SUN JIAN'S FORCES HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY RATIONS FOR THE PAST WHOLE MONTH!?

YES, SIR.

SISHUI PASS

HMM, IS THAT SO...

THEY ARE TOO TIRED AND HUNGRY TO EVEN WANT TO FIGHT.

NO WONDER ! HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN SMOKE COMING FROM THEIR CAMPS. THEY MUST HAVE NOT HAD ANY FOOD TO EVEN COOK.

ALLOW ME TO GO OUT THROUGH THE SECRET EXIT AND LAUNCH A SURPRISE RAID AGAINST THE ENEMY FROM THE REAR.

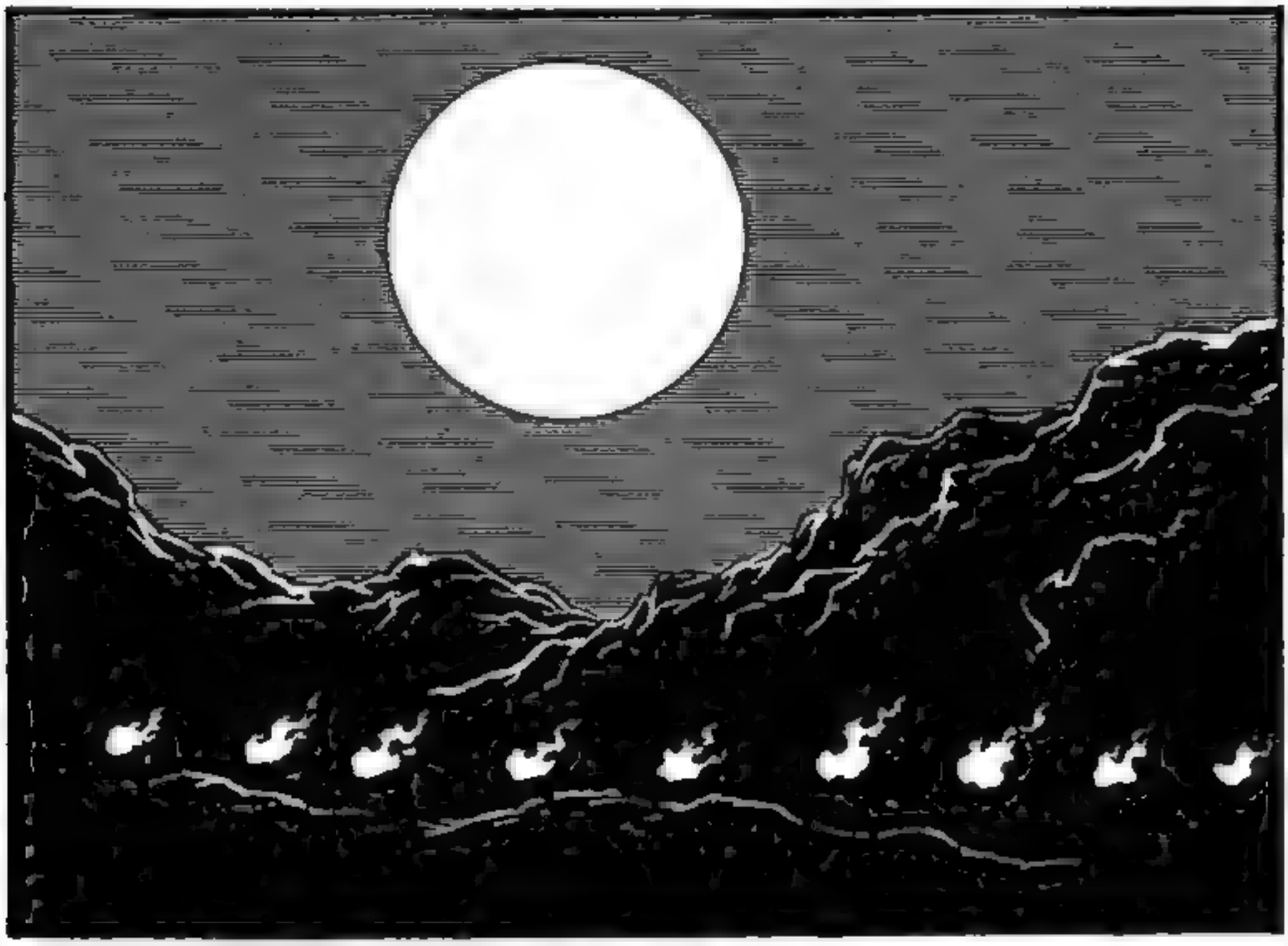
INDEED.

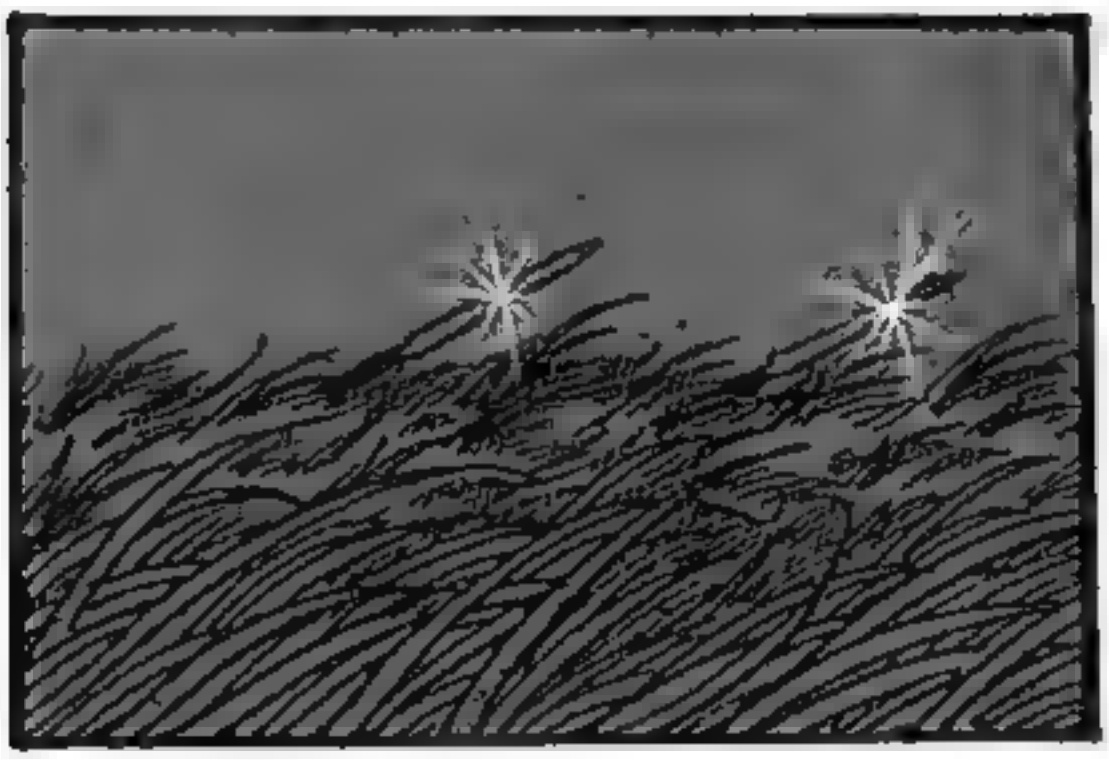
GENERAL HUA XIONG, NOW IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO CRUSH SUN JIANG AND HIS FORCES.

GOOD.

ONCE I'VE SUCCESSFULLY THROWN THE ENEMY IN PANIC, I SHALL SIGNAL BY FIRE FOR S'R TO LAUNCH THE MAIN ATTACK FROM THE FRONT.

PITIFUL REBELS, I SHALL ENJOY WATCHING YOU COWER IN FEAR.





GOOD, THEY'RE EXHAUSTED JUST AS OUR SCOUT REPORTED.

CHARGE!

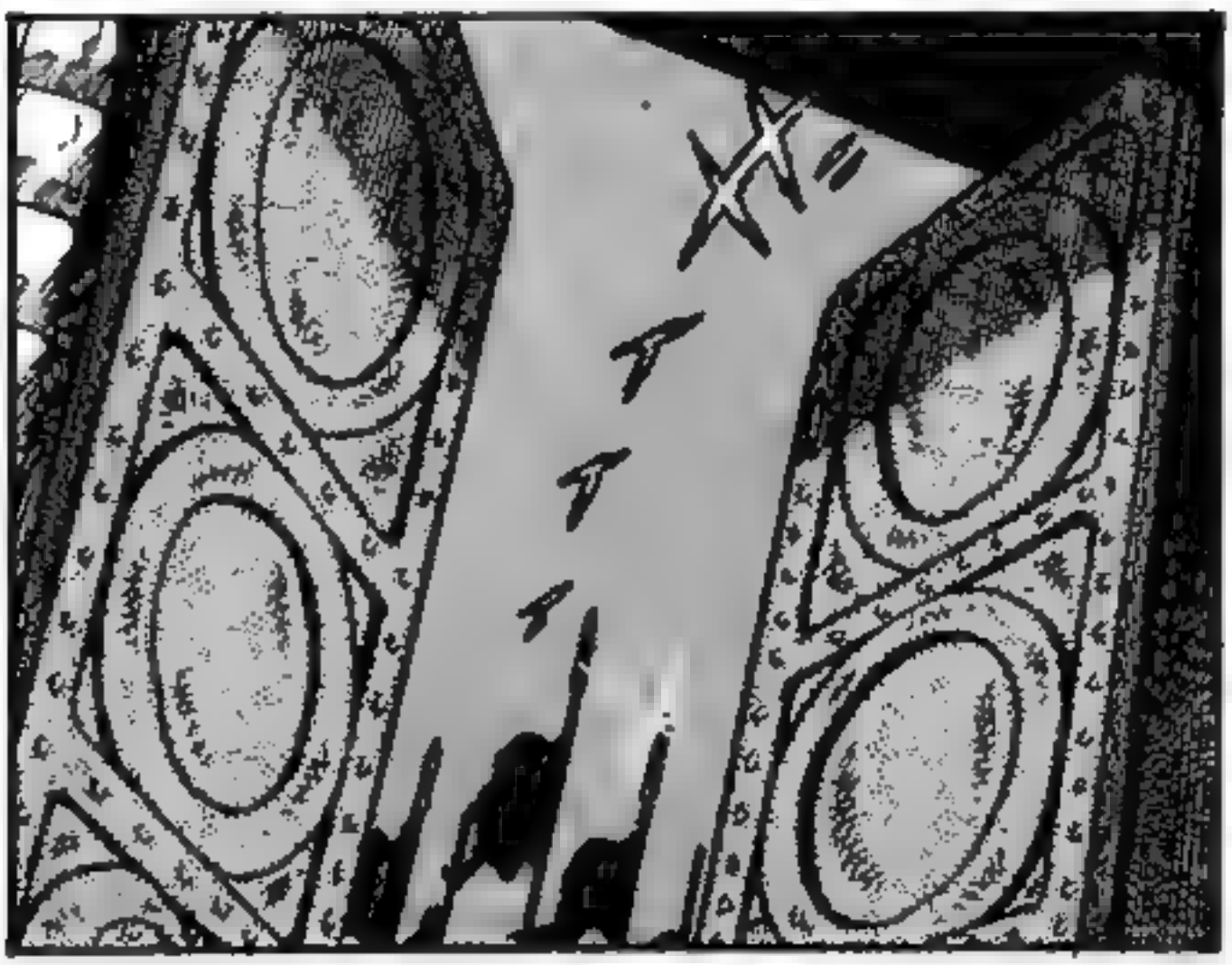
IT'S A RAID!!

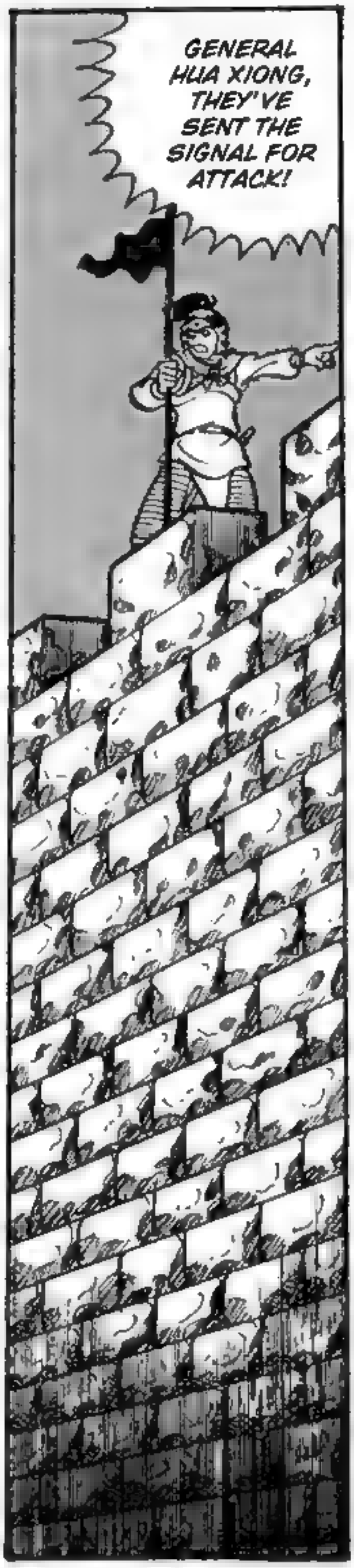
HMM?

AND FIRE THE FLAMING ARROWS INTO THE SKY!!!

BURN DOWN EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!!

ALRIGHT, OPEN THE GATES!




GENERAL HUA XIONG, THEY'VE SENT THE SIGNAL FOR ATTACK!

*FLAGS READ "HUA" FOR HUA XIONG

THIS SITU-ATION IS HOPELESS!

THERE ARE ENEMIES FROM THE FRONT AS WELL NOW!!

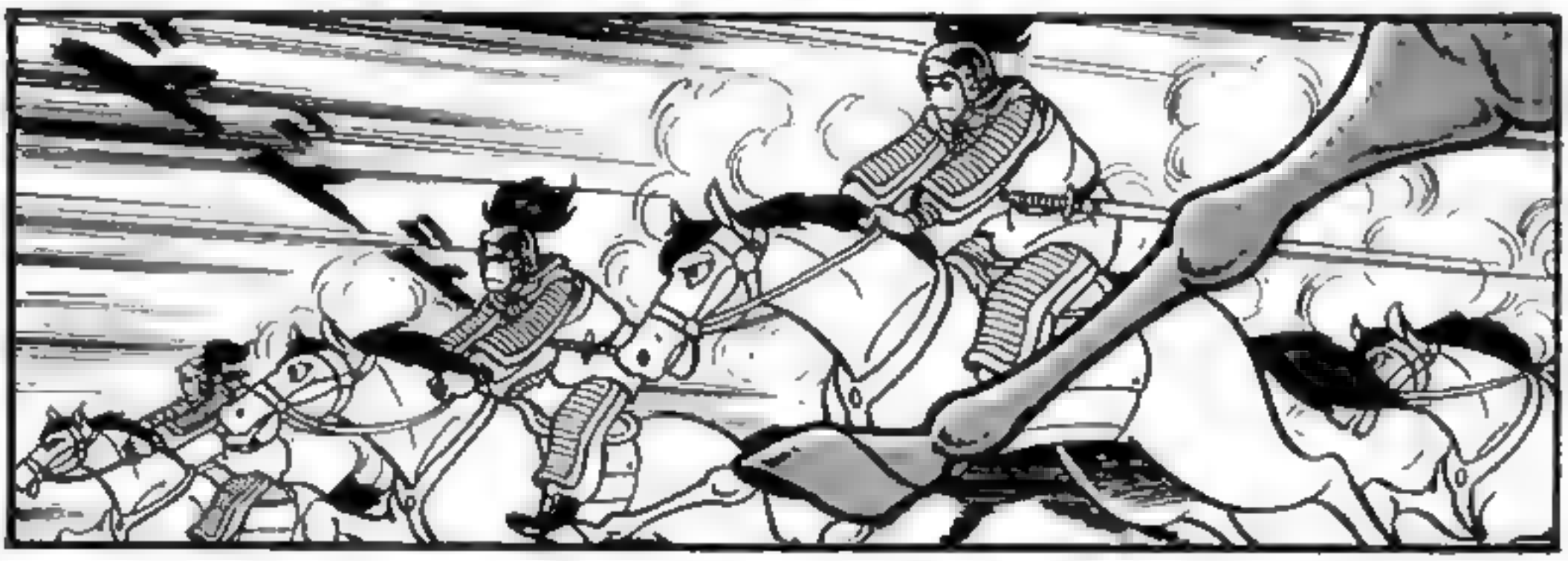
DON'T RUN AWAY! PICK UP YOUR SWORD AND FIGHT!!!

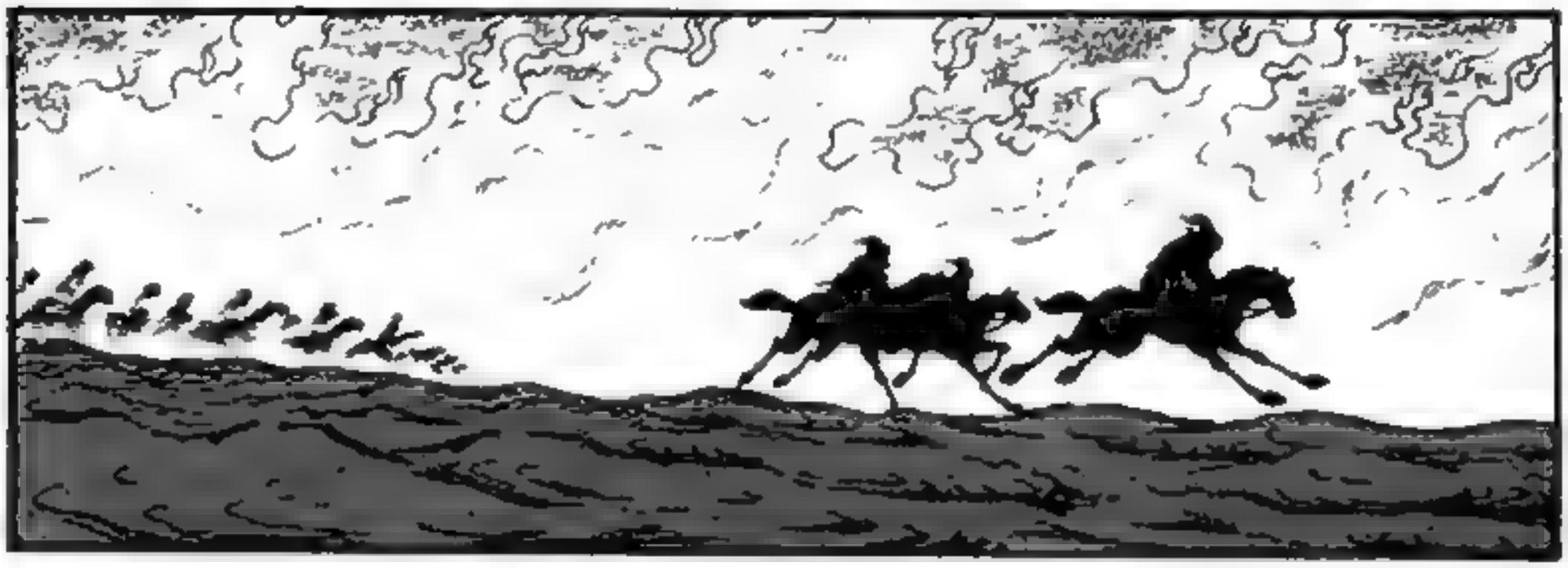
DAMN IT.

GENERAL, WE ARE MERELY BEING SLAUGHTERED OUT HERE. I ADVISE SIR TO ESCAPE AT ONCE!

AH, IT'S SUN JIAN AND HE'S RUNNING AWAY!

AFTER HIM!!





GUAN YU'S PROWESS

YES, HIS FORCES SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT AND IT IS UNCLEAR IF SUN JIAN HIMSELF IS NOW ALIVE OR DEAD.
WHAT, SUN JIAN WAS DEFEATED?

URGENT REPORT!!

HUA XIONG'S FORCES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATED PAST OUR 2ND AND 3RD LINE OF OUR ENCAMPMENTS!

DO NOT PANIC, GENTLE-MEN!

AT THIS RATE, EVEN OUR BASE HERE WILL BE UNDER DANGER!

THIS IS VERY BAD.

IF WE GENERALS BEGIN TO PANIC, THEN IT WILL ONLY CREATE FURTHER UNREST FOR OUR FOLLOWERS!

BRING THE WINE!!

PANICKING IN TIMES LIKE THESE WILL AMOUNT TO NOTHING. WE MUST COME UP WITH A SOUND PLAN.

LET US DRINK A GLASS TO CALM OUR SPIRTIS DOWN.

HUA XIONG HAS BROKEN THROUGH ANOTHER LINE AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO RUN SHORT OF MANPOWER!

S-SIRS!

OHHHH!

SIR, AT THIS RATE, THIS PLACE WILL BE SURROUNDED WITHIN SOON. PLEASE GIVE ME THE ORDER TO STOP HUA XIONG.

OUR MEN ARE GETTING TRAMPLED!

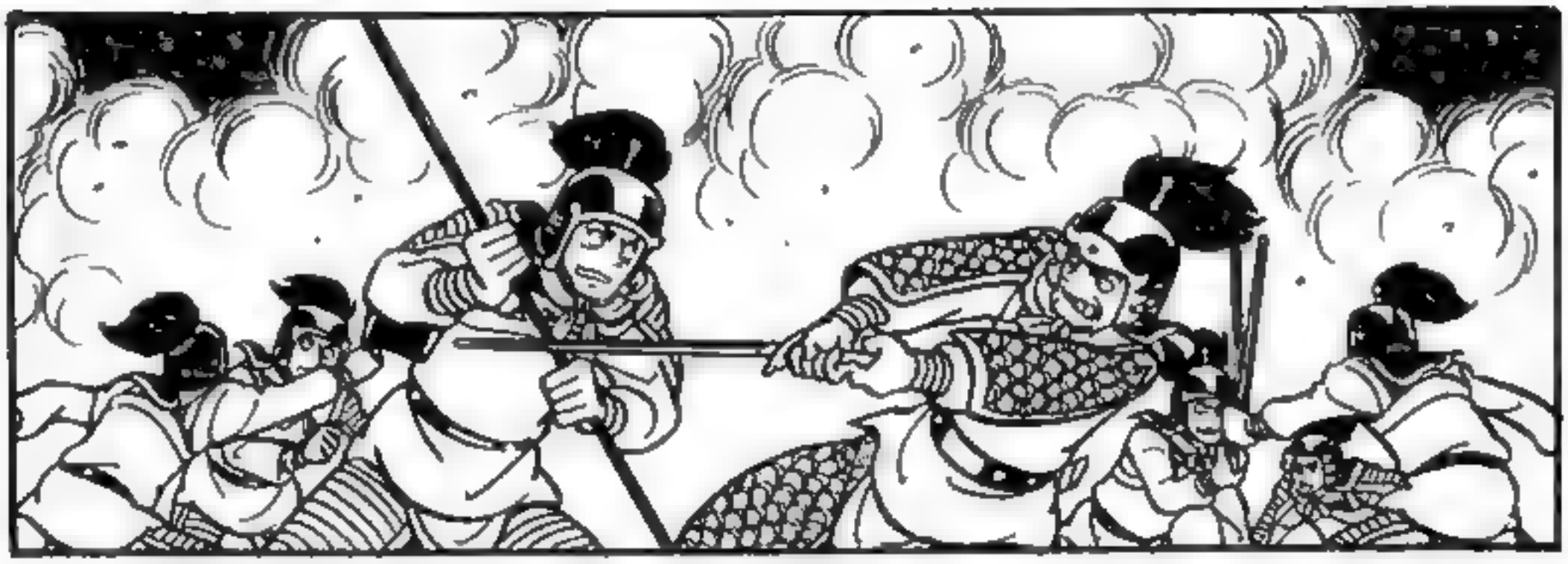
YES, SIR.

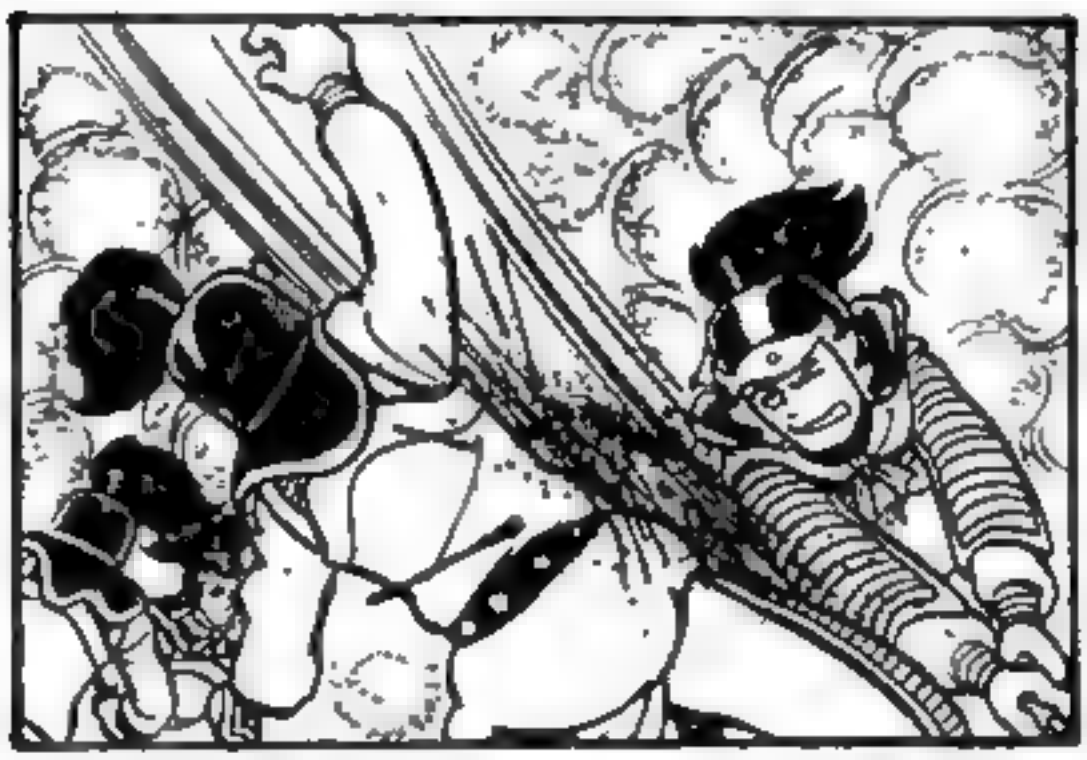
ALRIGHT, GO AT ONCE!

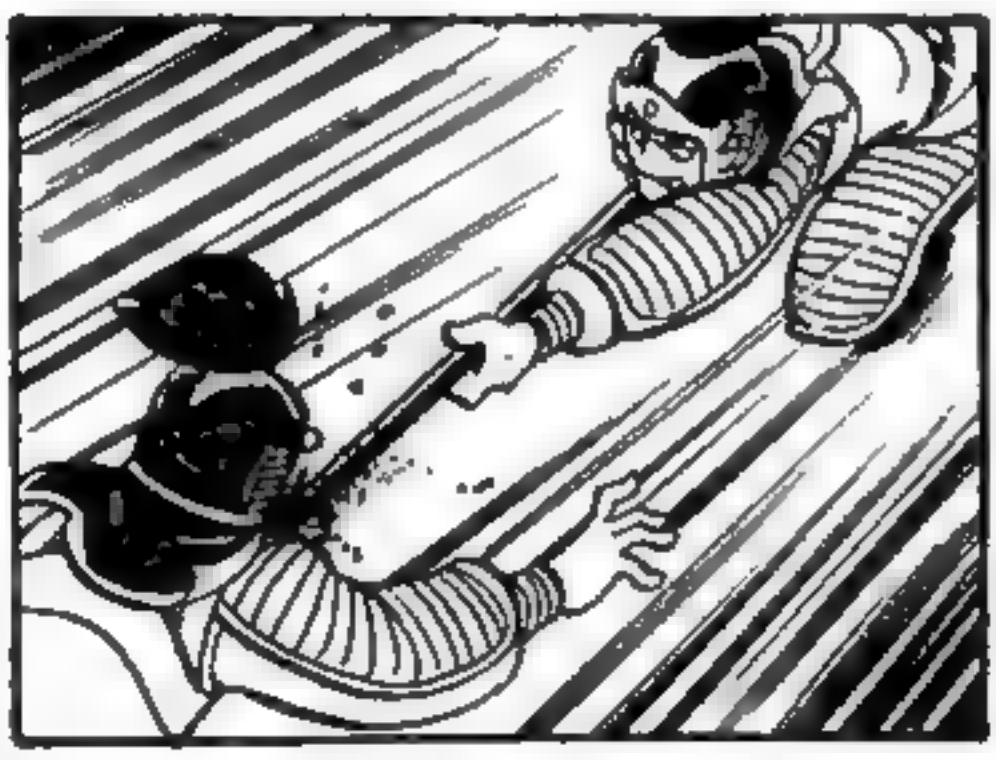
THOSE ARE BRAVE WORDS YOU SPEAK, YU SHE.

OUR ALLIES ARE IN DANGER! FOLLOW ME, MY MEN!

HUA XIONG, WHERE ARE YOU!!?





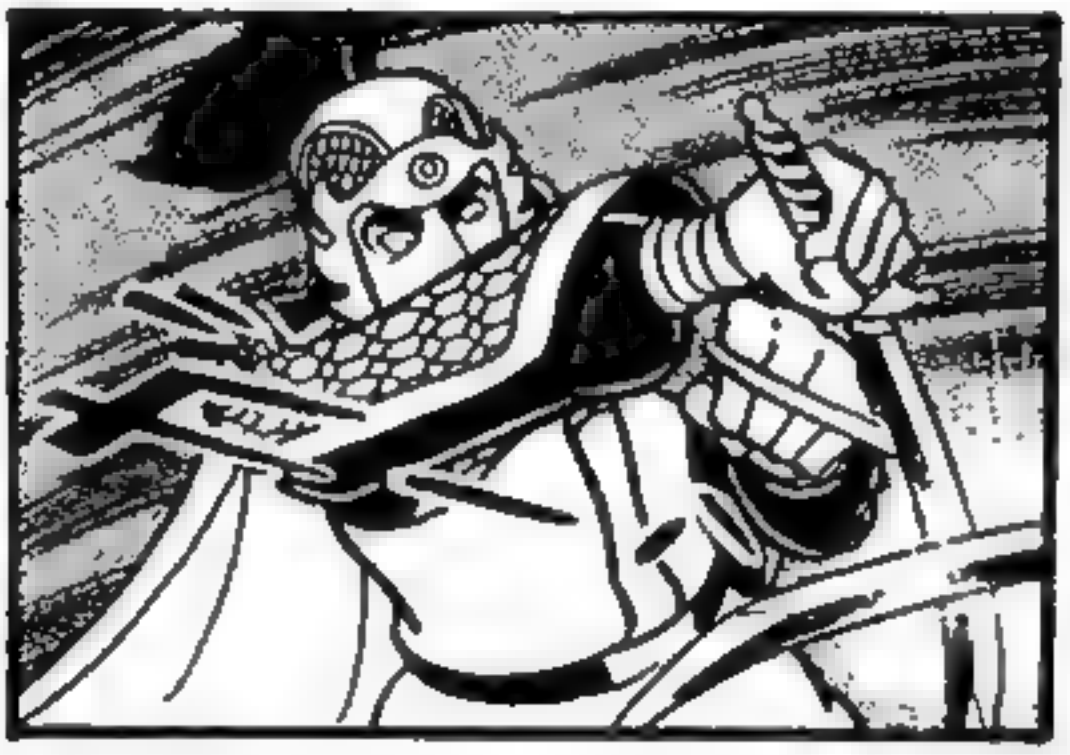


HAHAHA, YOU SURE LIKE TO TALK BIG.

WHERE IS HUA XIONG!? I, YU SHE, CHAL-LENGE YOU TO A DUEL!

THEN HERE I COMEEE!

I, HUA XIONG, ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.



AGHH!

RUN AWAY! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MATCH THEM!!

GENERAL YU SHE WAS DEFEATED!

IS THERE NO MAN WHO CAN STOP HIM!?

ALL SHALL BE LOST IF HUA XIONG IS NOT STOPPED!

WHAT!? YU SHE HAS BEEN KILLED!?

OUT OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS GATHERED, IS THERE NOT EVEN A SINGLE MAN SKILLED ENOUGH TO CUT DOWN HUA XIONG!?

TO SAY THAT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE CAPABLE MAN IS A LITTLE RUDE, COMMANDER.

AND YOU PEOPLE THINK WE CAN BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO LIKE THIS!?

WHOM MIGHT YOU BE?

IF THE ORDER IS GIVEN, I SHALL GO OUT AT ONCE AND BRING BACK HUA XIONG'S HEAD.

I AM GUAN YU, SWORN BROTHER OF LIU BEI XUANDE.

I AM HIS SUBORDINATE, A FOOT SOLDIER.

?

LIU BEI'S BROTHER? JUST WHAT IS YOUR RANK?

DO YOU REALLY BELIVE THAT WE GENERALS WOULD GRIEVE OVER A MATTER THAT A MERE FOOT SOLDIER COULD ACCOMPLISH!?

KNOW YOUR PLACE!!

A FOOT SOLD-IER!?

YOU INSO-LENT FOOL!

PLEASE HOLD ON A MINUTE, COMMANDER YUAN SHAO.

JUST WHY IS SUCH A MAN STANDING HERE!? KICK HIM OUT AT ONCE!!

IF THIS MAN WAS CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO STATE THAT HE COULD DO IT IN FRONT OF HIS SUPERIORS, THEN WHY DON'T WE AT LEAST LET HIM TRY?

LET THEM LAUGH IF THEY WISH, THAT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE. WE MUST CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS INTO THINKING HOW WE CAN OVERCOME THIS PREDICAMENT.

BUT IF WE SEND A MERE FOOT SOLDIER OUT TO COUNTER HUA XIONG, WE SHALL BECOME THE LAUGHINGSTOCKS OF OUR ENEMIES.

ALRIGHT THEN.

WELL IF CAO CAO FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS, THEN I SHAN'T OBJECT...

GUAN YU, HERE IS A GLASS FOR LUCK.

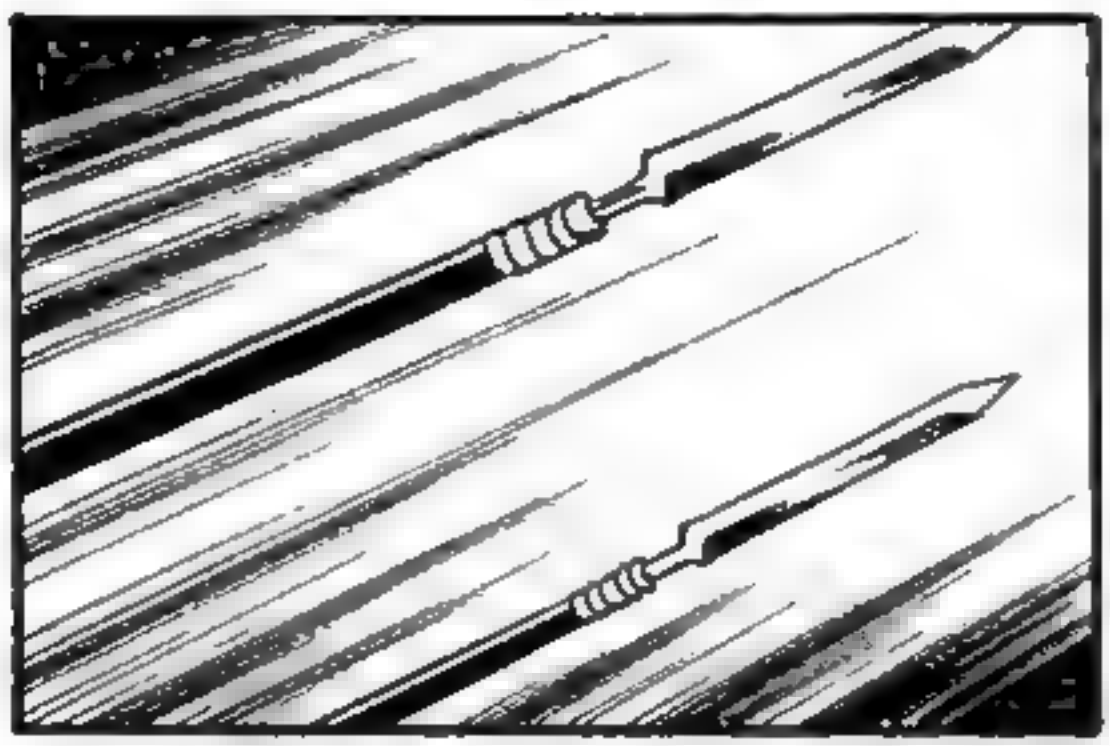
THANK YOU, SIR.

COMPARED TO THAT, OUR ENEMIES FACE THE FAR GREATER RISK OF LOSING THEIR GENERAL HUA XIONG.

LOSING A SINGLE FOOT SOLDIER IS AN INSIGNIFICANT RISK FOR OUR SIDE.

IF THAT MAN TRULY DOES WHAT HE PROMISED, OUR ENEMIES WILL COME TO FEAR EVEN OUR LOWEST RANKING FOOT SOLDIERS FROM NOW ON!

HUA XIONG!! COME OUT AND FACE ME!!



OUT OF THE WAY! I HAVE NO TIME TO DEAL WITH INSIG-NIFICANT SPECKS OF DIRT LIKE YOU!

CEASE THIS COWARDICE AND FIGHT ME!

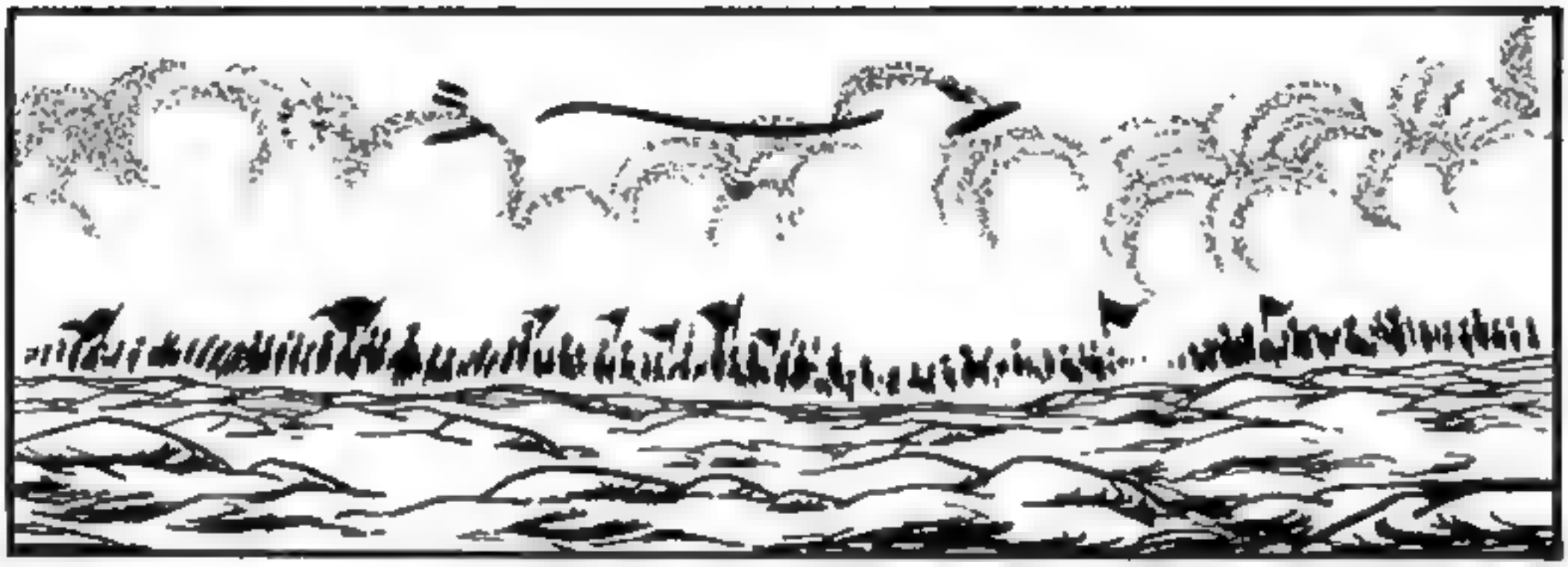
HUA XIONG!

IT IS HARD TO TELL AT THIS POINT, SIR.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION!?

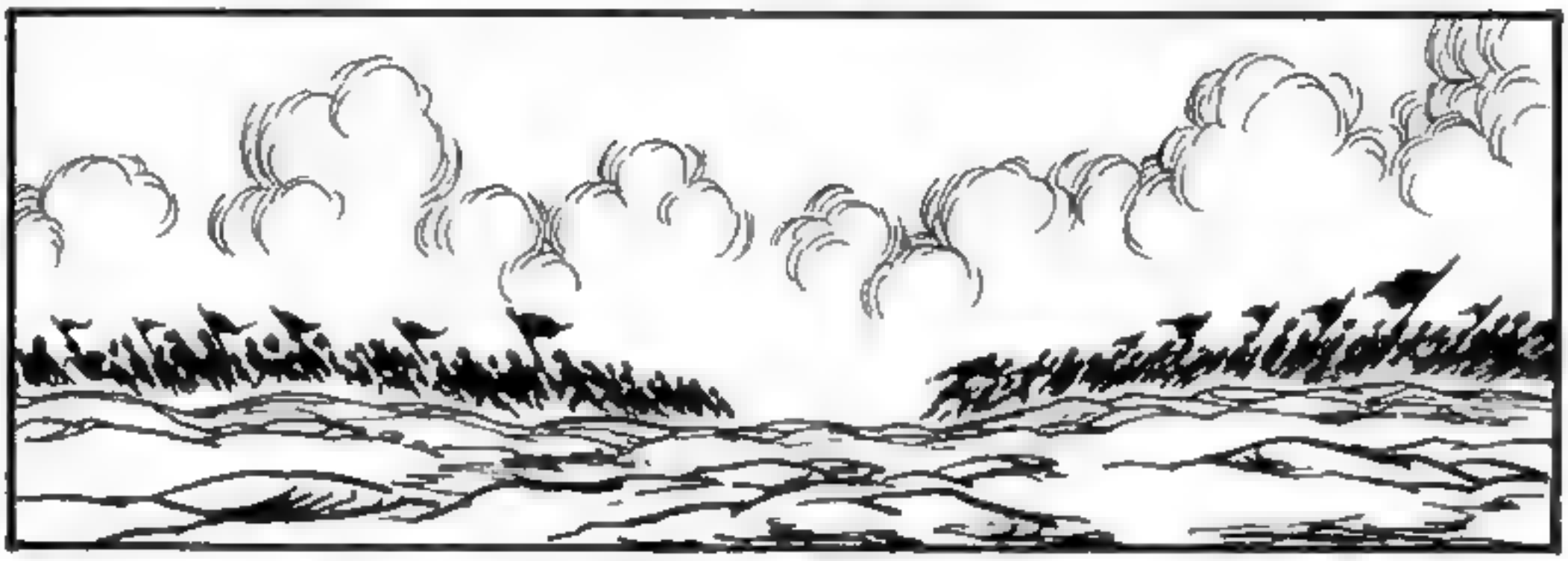
SOME-THING IS STRANGE.

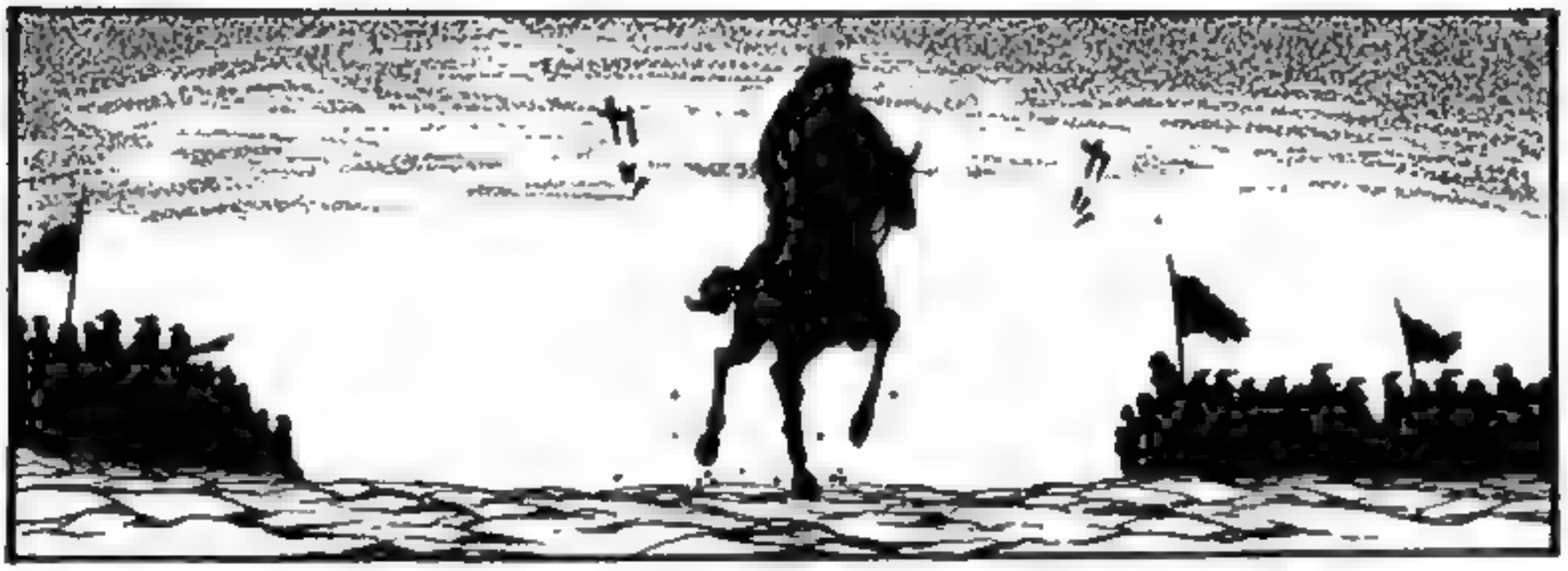
HMM?



SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

THERE SEEMS TO BE AN EERIE SILENCE OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

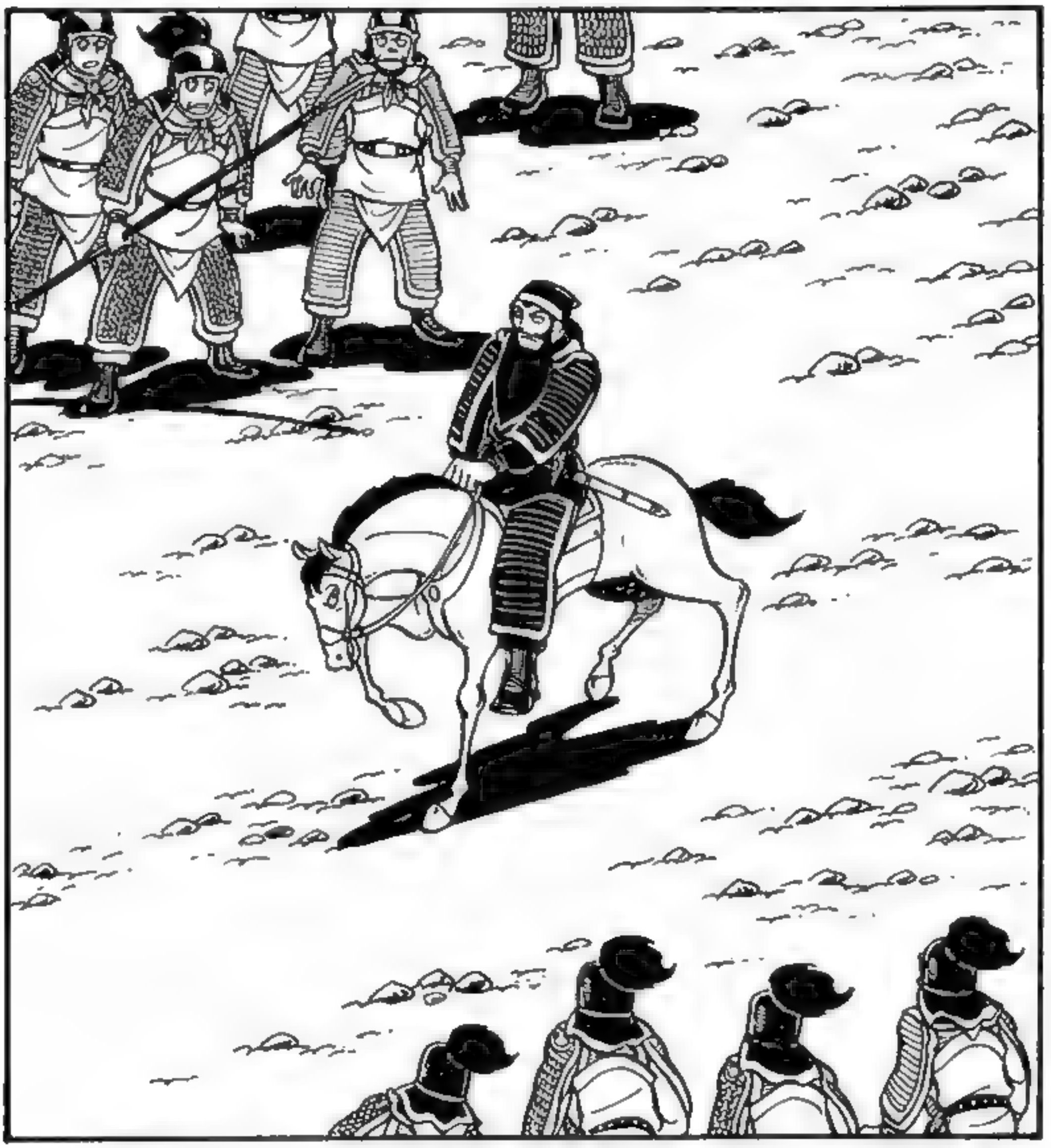




GUAN YU
HAS
RETURNED!

IT'S
GUAN YU!

AHH! LOOK WHAT HE'S HOLDING IN HIS HAND!!



HIC!

THE ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD!!

THAT'S HUA XIONG'S HEAD!

HE DID IT! THE ENEMY GENERAL HAS BEEN CUT DOWN!!

WHAT A MAN...

HAHAHA. THE WINE IS FINALLY STARTING TO KICK IN.

LET'S GO MEN! IT'S TIME TO RUSH IN AND CRUSH THE REMAINING ENEMIES!

HAHA, AS EXPECTED OF YOU, MY BROTHER!

?

SILENCE! HAVE YOU STILL NOT REALIZED YOUR IMPUDENCE!

WE ARE CAPTAINS AND GENERALS THAT LEAD THOUSANDS OF MEN!

DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE THAT YOU CAN COMMAND US TO RUSH IN AND ATTACK!?

HMPH, ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY NOW THAT THE ENEMY GENERAL IS DEAD...

KNOW YOUR PLACE, KNAVE!!!

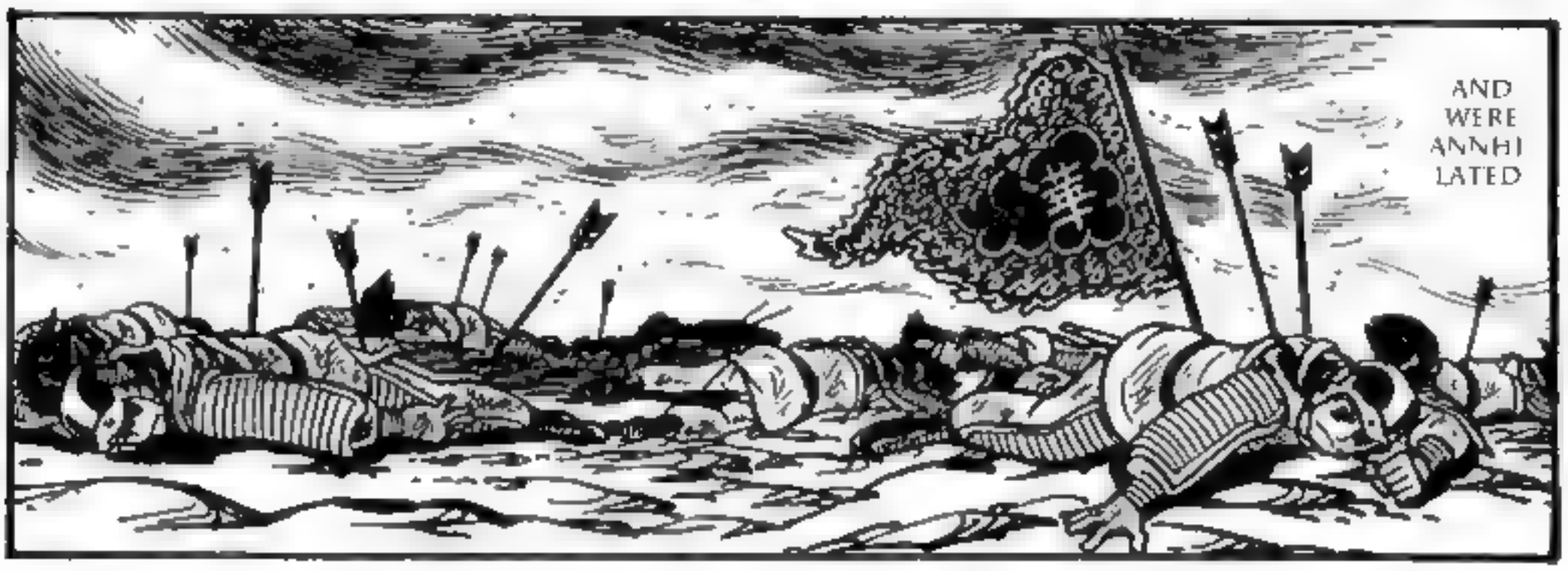
IF THAT'S WHAT BROTHER WANTS...

ZHANG FEI! SAY NO MORE AND STEP DOWN!

ALRIGHT COMRADES! NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THIS HEADLESS CHICKEN! GIVE THE ORDER TO YOUR UNITS TO CHARGE IN AT ONCE!

HUAXIONG'S FORCES HAD LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT AFTER LOSING THEIR GENERAL.

THE SITUATION CHANGED IMMEDIATELY


AND WERE ANNHI LATED

YES, AND CRUSH THAT DONG ZHUO!

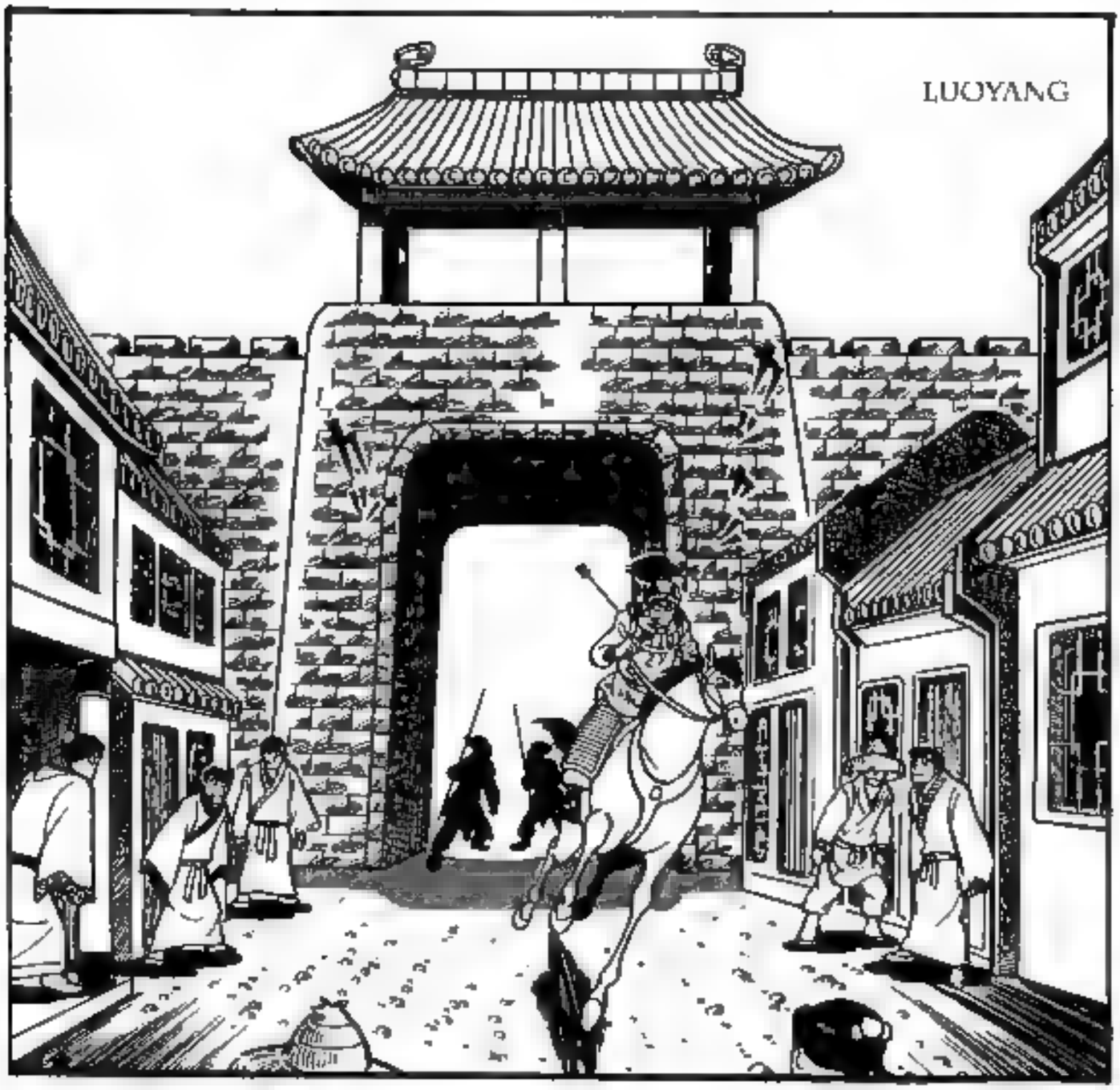
LET US CHARGE INTO LUOYANG AT ONCE!!!

A TOAST TO OUR GREAT VICTORY!

HAHA!

HMPH, THE HELL ARE THEY LAUGHING AT? THEY'D STILL BE PISSING THEIR PANTS IF IT WASN'T FOR BROTHER! WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF WE ARE MERE FOOT SOLDIERS!?

BATTLE OF HULAO PASS



I HAVE AN URGENT REPORT FOR CHANCELLOR DONG ZHUO!

TO THINK THAT HUA XIONG WOULD BE DEFEATED...

THE ENEMIES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY ...

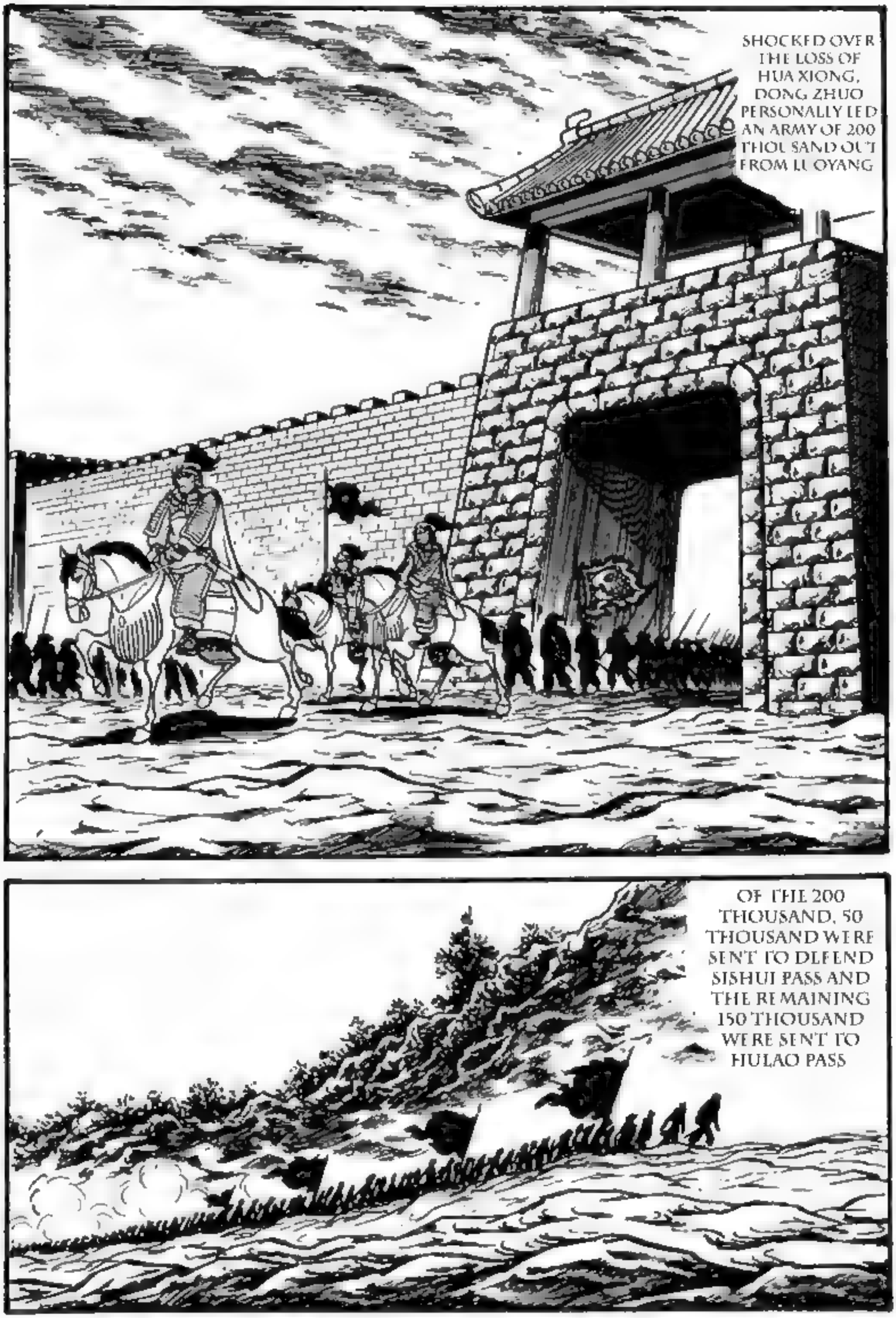
YES, SIR. THE SURVIVING FORCES HAVE MANGAED TO RETREAT BACK TO SISHUI PASS.

WHAT!? HUA XIONG WAS KILLED IN BATTLE!?

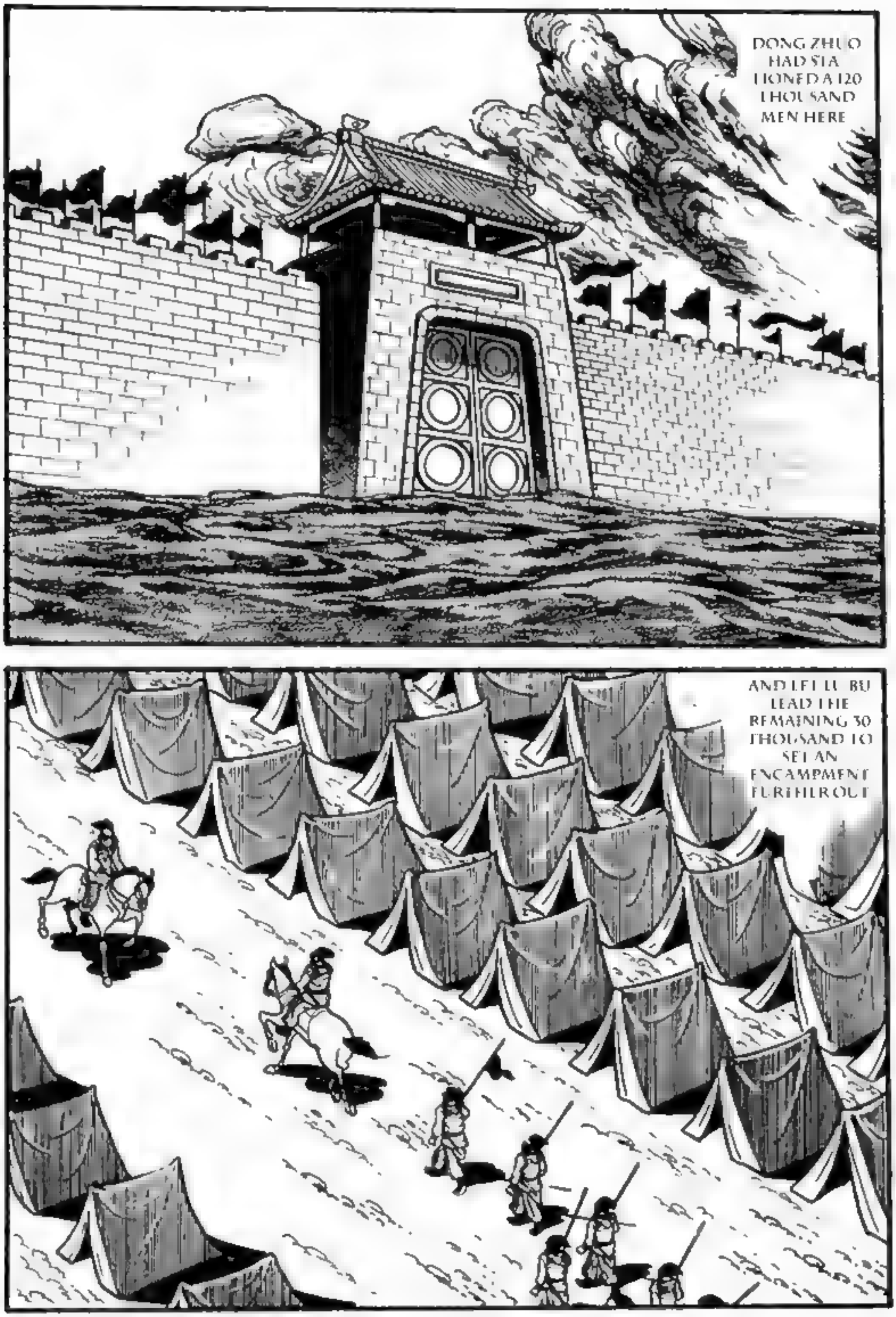
YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL DEPART MYSELF FOR BATTLE! MAKE THE NECCESSARY PREPARATIONS!


SHOCKED OVER THE LOSS OF HUA XIONG, DONG ZHUO PERSONALLY LED AN ARMY OF 200 THOUSAND OUT FROM LUOYANG
OF THE 200 THOUSAND, 50 THOUSAND WERE SENT TO DEFEND SISHUI PASS AND THE REMAINING 150 THOUSAND WERE SENT TO HULAO PASS

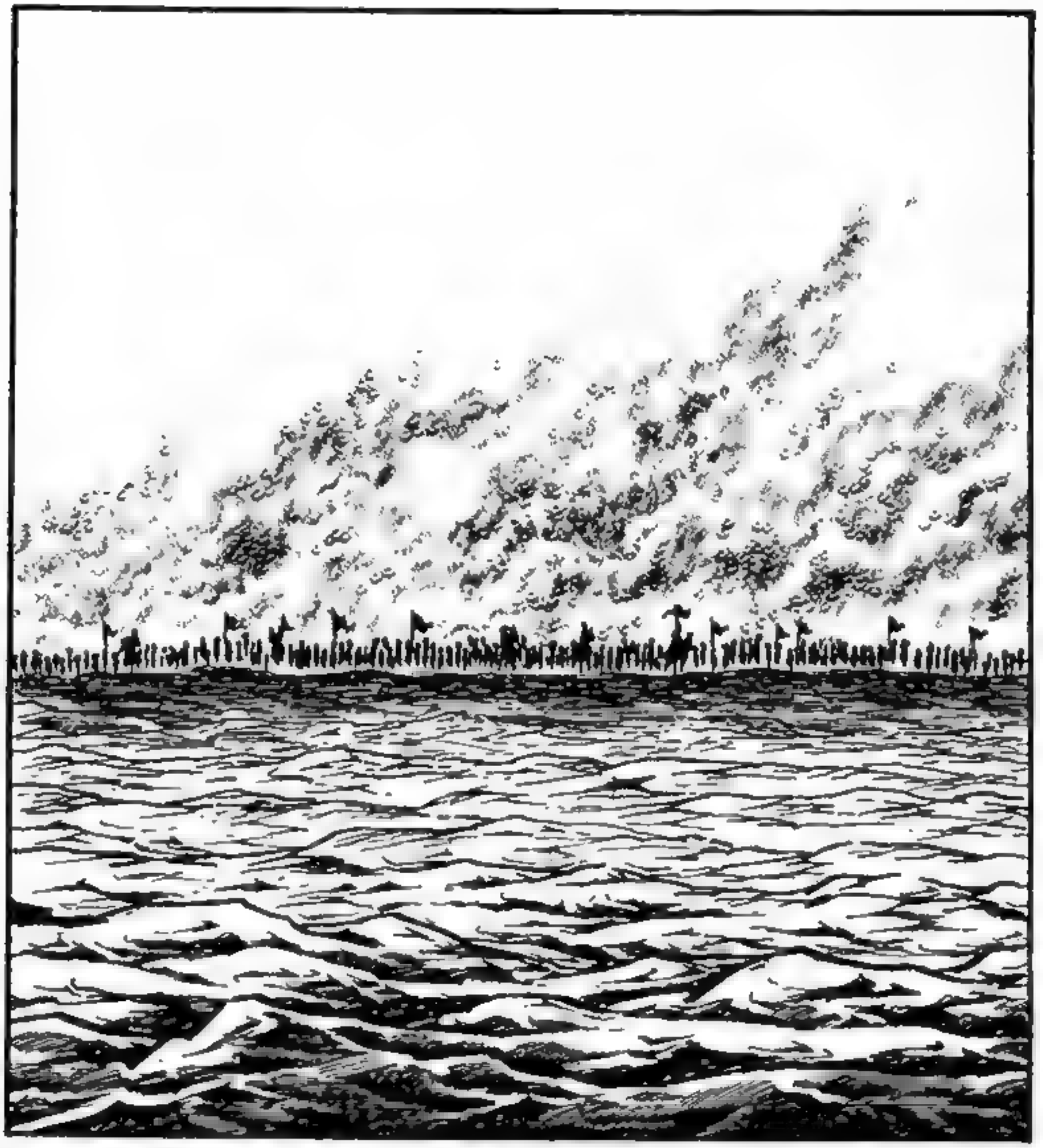
HULAO PASS WAS A MOUNTAIN PASS SITUATED 500LI FROM LUOYANG. IT WAS SAID THAT STATIONING A 100 THOUSAND MEN IN IT WOULD MAKE IT IMPREGNABLE, NO MATTER HOW LARGE NOR FIERCE THE ENEMY FORCES WERE


DONG ZHUO HAD STA TIONED A 120 THOUSAND MEN HERE
AND LET LU BU LEAD THE REMAINING 30 THOUSAND TO SET AN ENCAMPMENT FURTHER OUT

AT THE REBELS' BASE
YES SIR, HE DIVIDED HIS FORCES TO BOTH SISHUI PASS AND HULAO PASS.
DONG ZHUO HAS SPLIT HIS FORCES IN TWO?
YES, WE MUST DECIDE HOW TO SPLIT OUR FORCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THAT MEANS THAT WE MUST DIVIDE OUR FORCES TOO NOW.

AND SO THE REBELS ALSO DIVIDED THEM SELVES

8 NOBLES FROM VARIOUS COMMANDERIES LED THE ARMY HEADING TOWARDS HULAO PASS. LIU BEI XUANDE WAS ONE AMONG THE COUNTLESS SOLDIERS

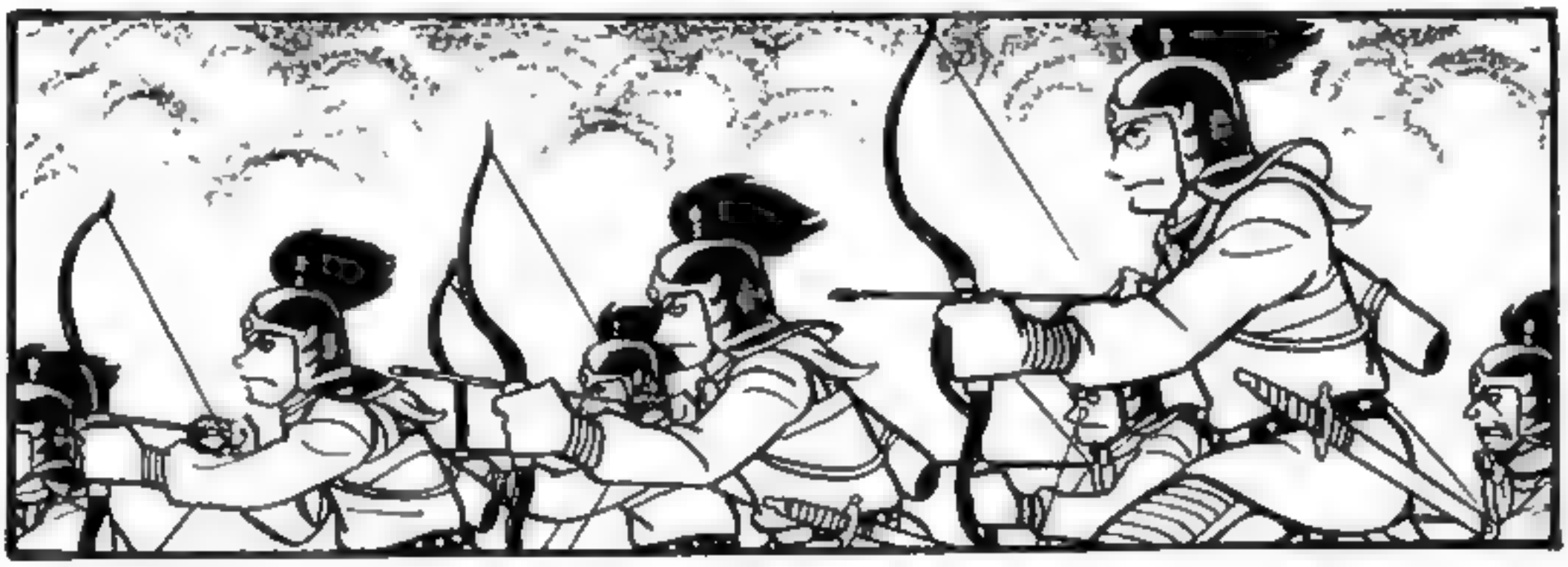


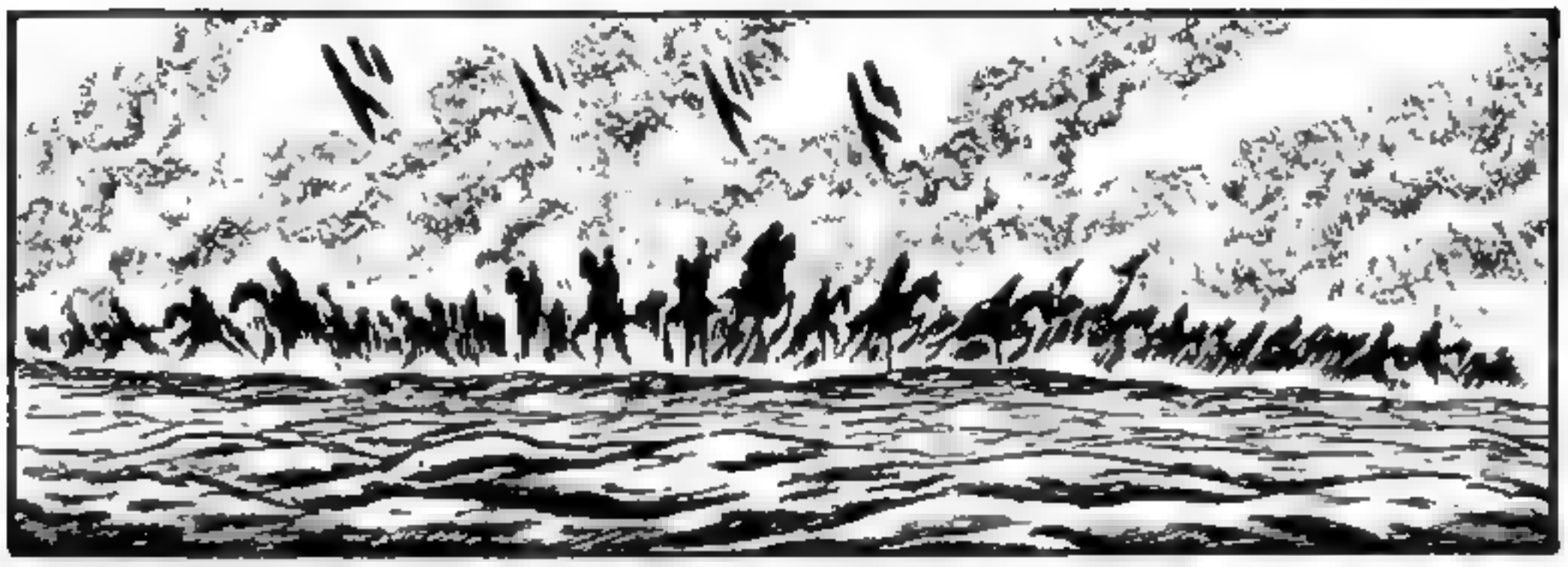
GENERAL LU BU, THE ENEMIES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED!

HAHA, SO YOU'VE COME AT LAST...

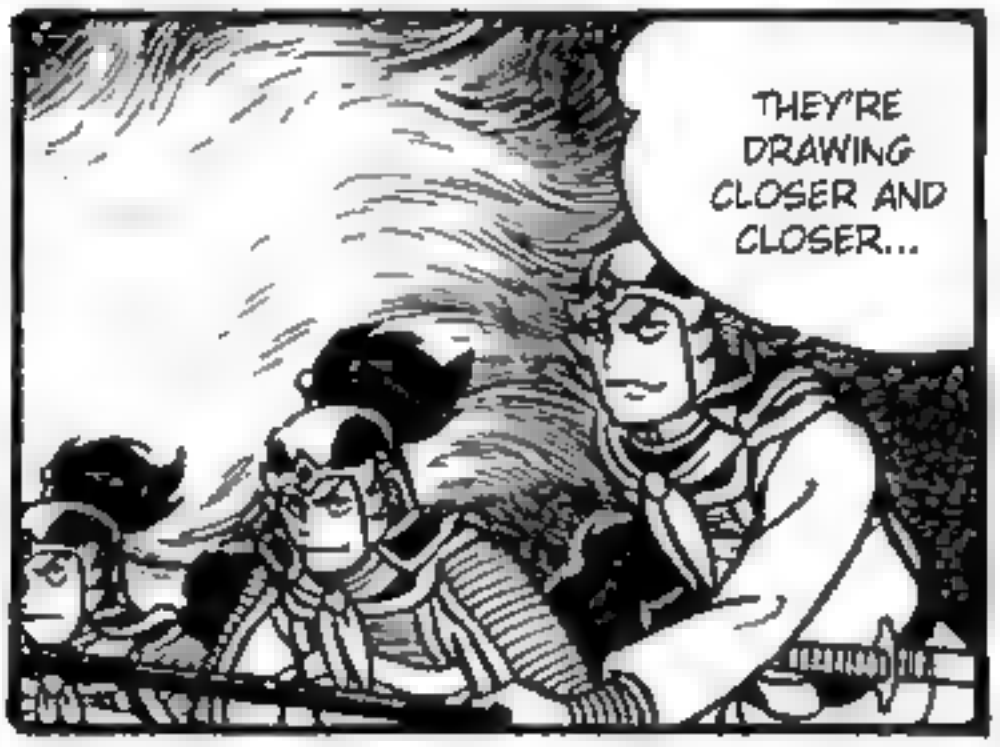
YES, SIR.

LISTEN UP! DO NOT FIRE UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

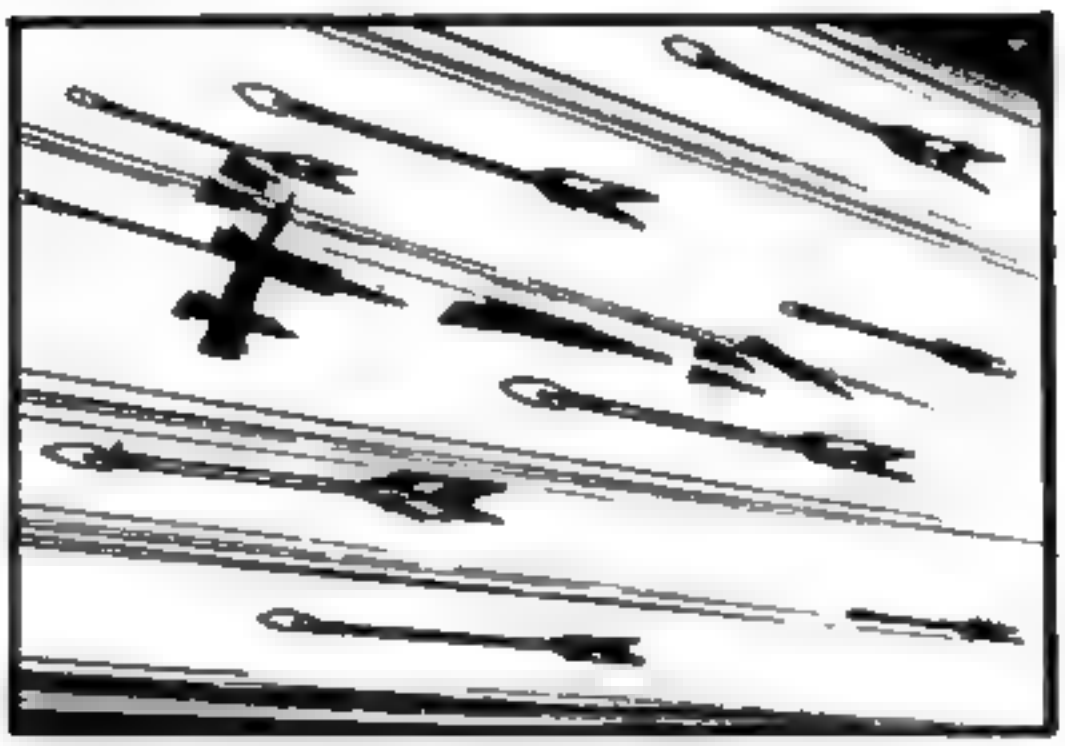


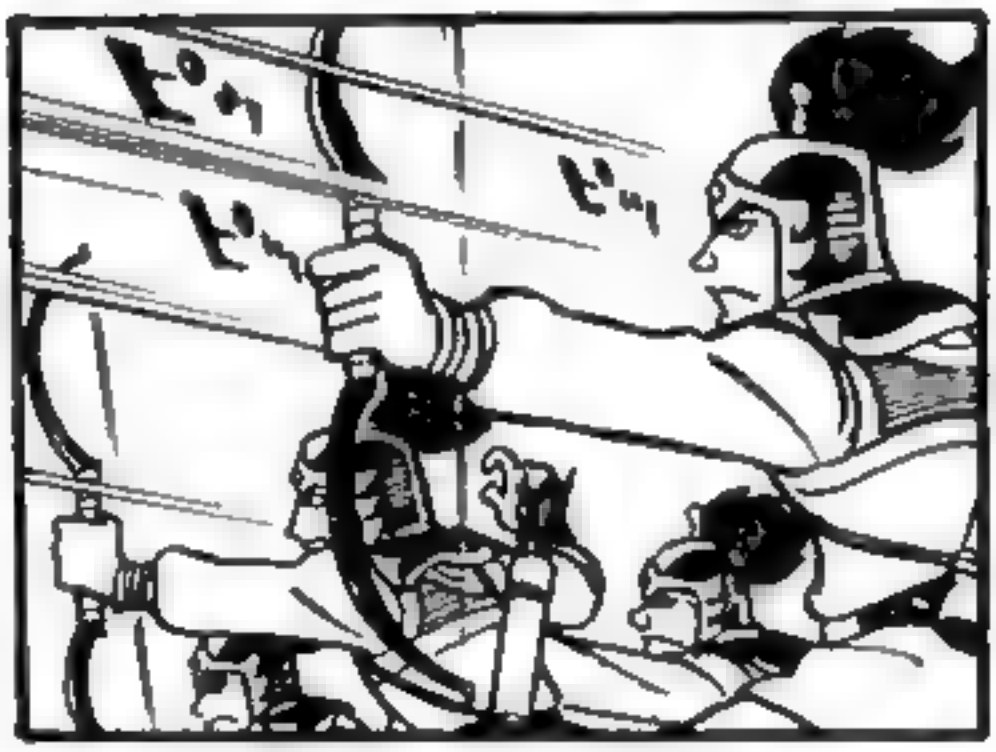


NOT YET, HOLD YOUR FIRE...


THEY'RE DRAWING CLOSER AND CLOSER...

NOW!
FIRE!!!





CHARGE!

TAKE HIM DOWN!!!

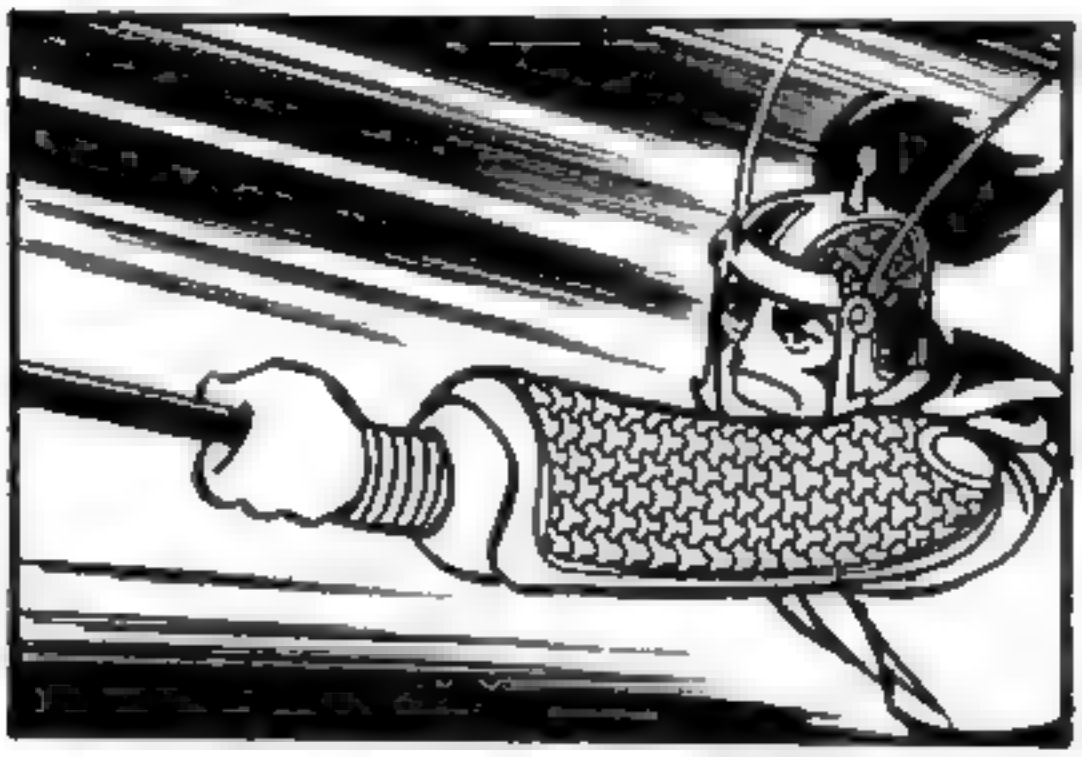
HE MUST BE THE ENEMY GENERAL, LU BU!
AHH, THAT'S THE RED HARE!

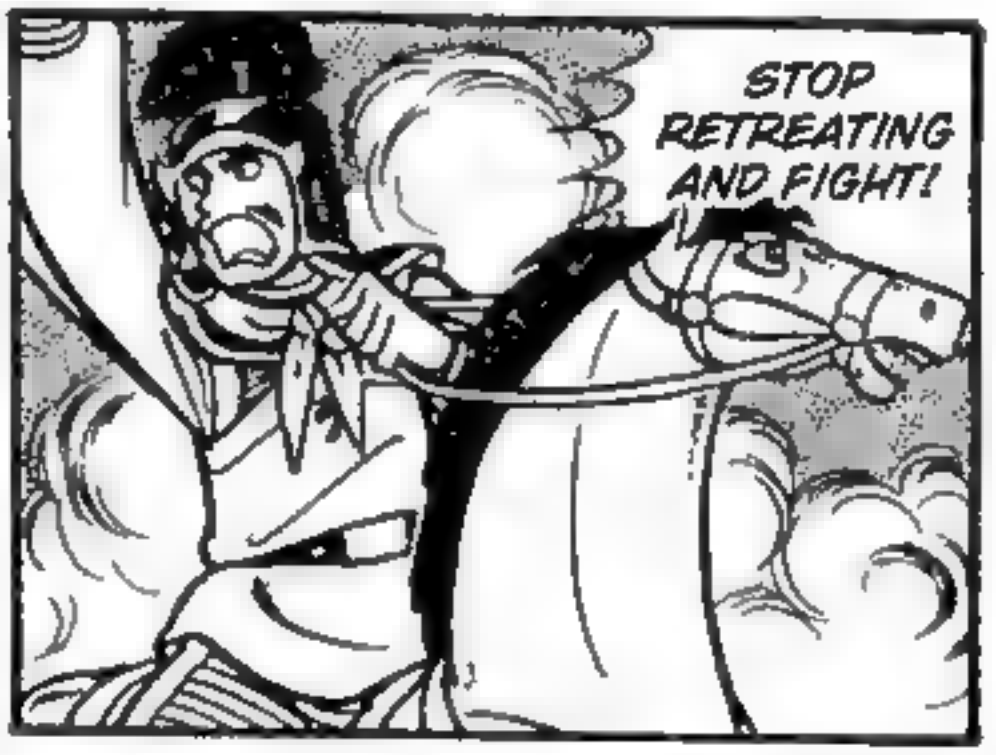
AHAHAHA! AS IF I, LU BU, WOULD BE BROUGHT DOWN BY THE LIKES OF YOU!!!

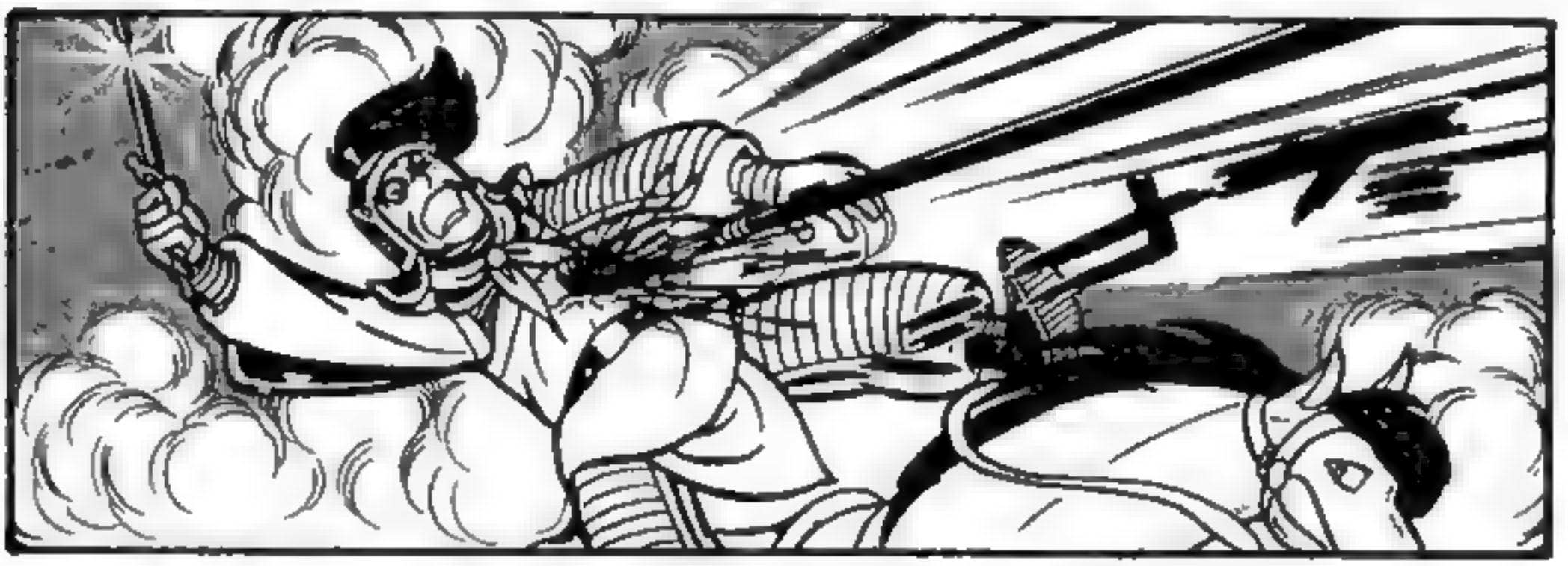
H-HE'S A DEMON!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
AGHHH!

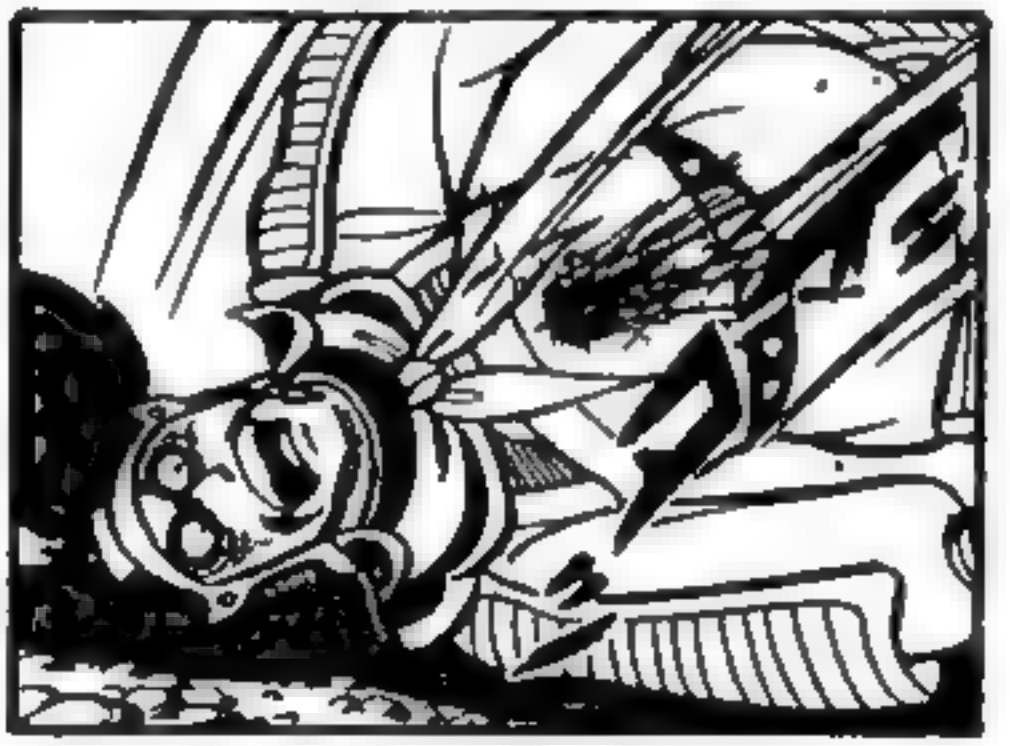
GAHH!




STOP RETREATING AND FIGHT!



ACK!



THE ENEMY LINES ARE CRUMBLING, DON'T LET A SINGLE MAN LIVE!!!

WHAT!?

GENERAL LU BU, OVER THERE!

GENERAL, THERE ARE ENEMIES TO THE LEFT AS WELL!

ALRIGHT, YOU AND THE OTHERS DEAL WITH THE ENEMIES TO THE LEFT.

PLANNING TO ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES, I SEE...

I SHALL DEAL WITH THE ENEMIES TO THE RIGHT ALL BY MYSELF.

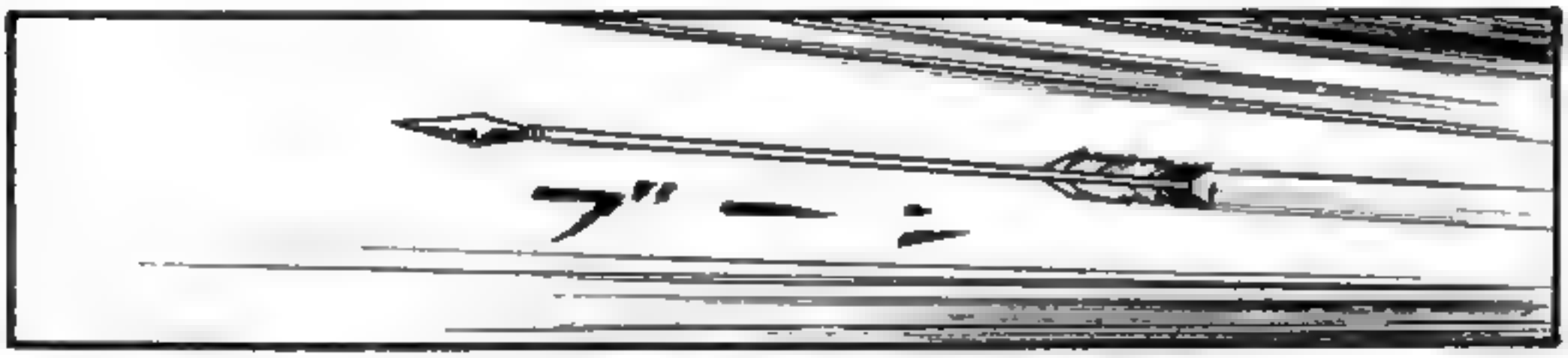
GENERAL, WHERE ARE YOU...!?

HE MUST BE LU BU, KILL HIM!

IT'S THE RED HARE!

HE'S HERE!

LET ME SHOW YOU FOOLS HOW TO PROPERLY USE A BOW!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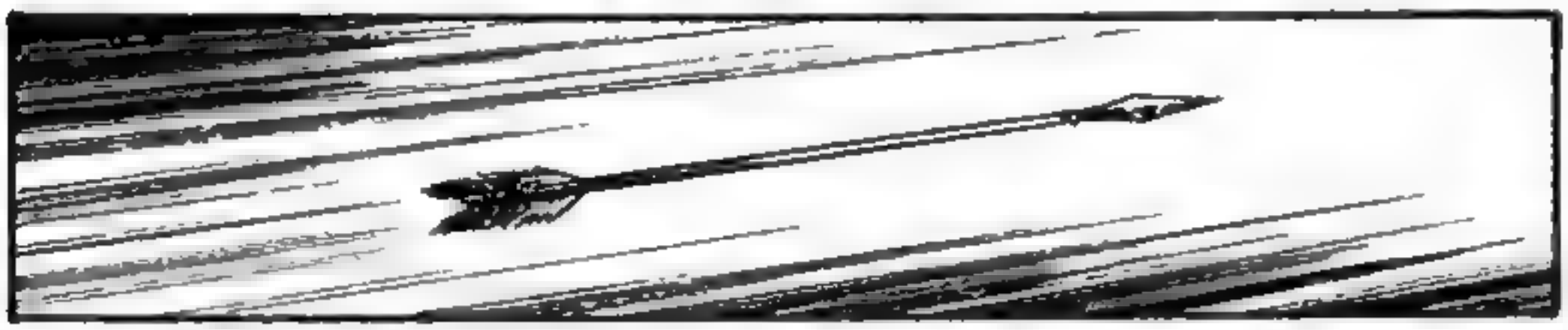
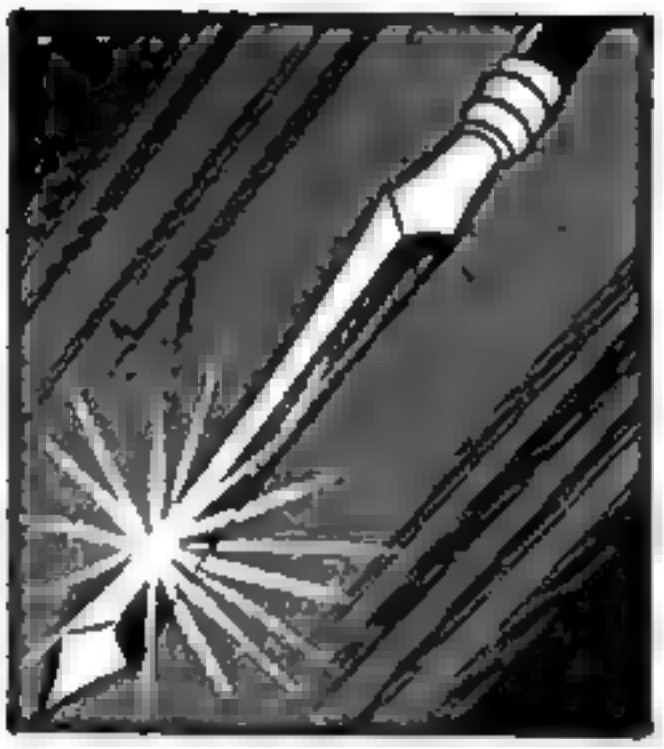
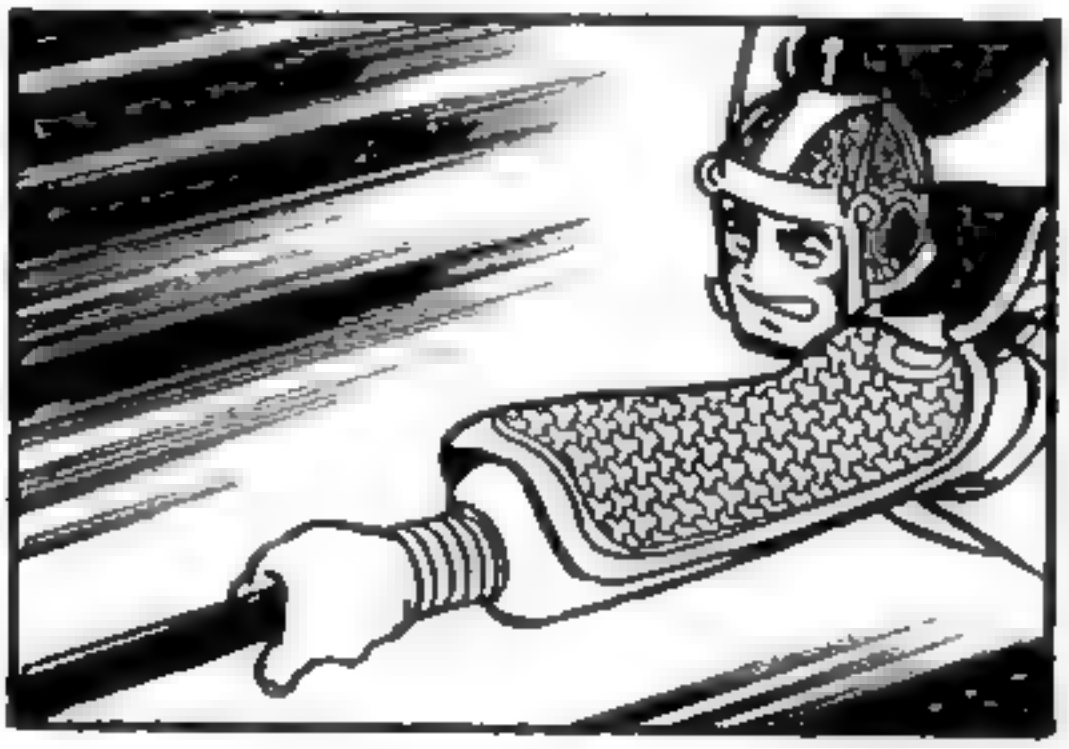
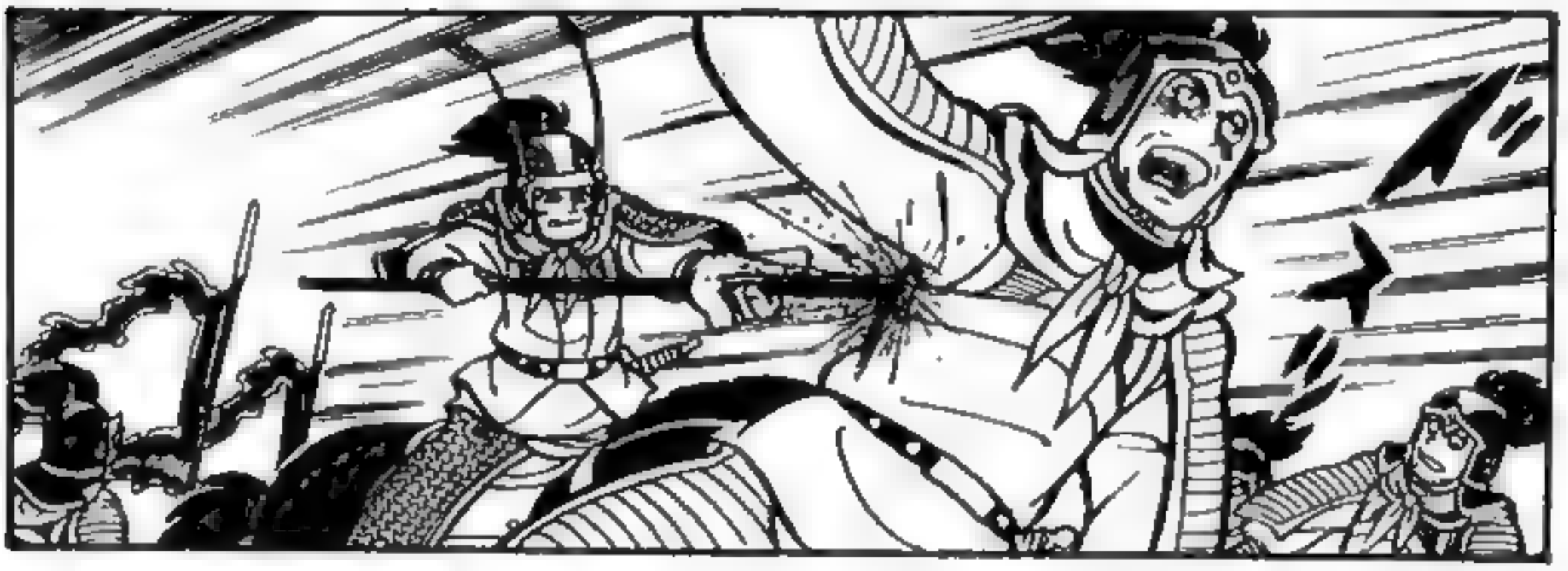


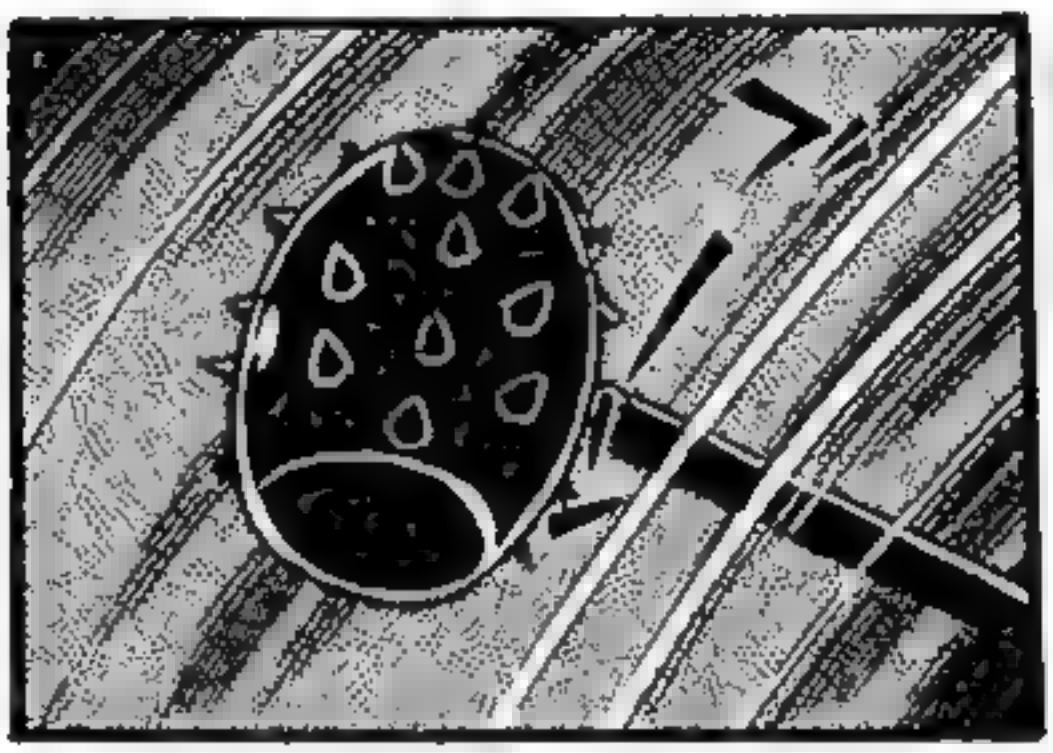


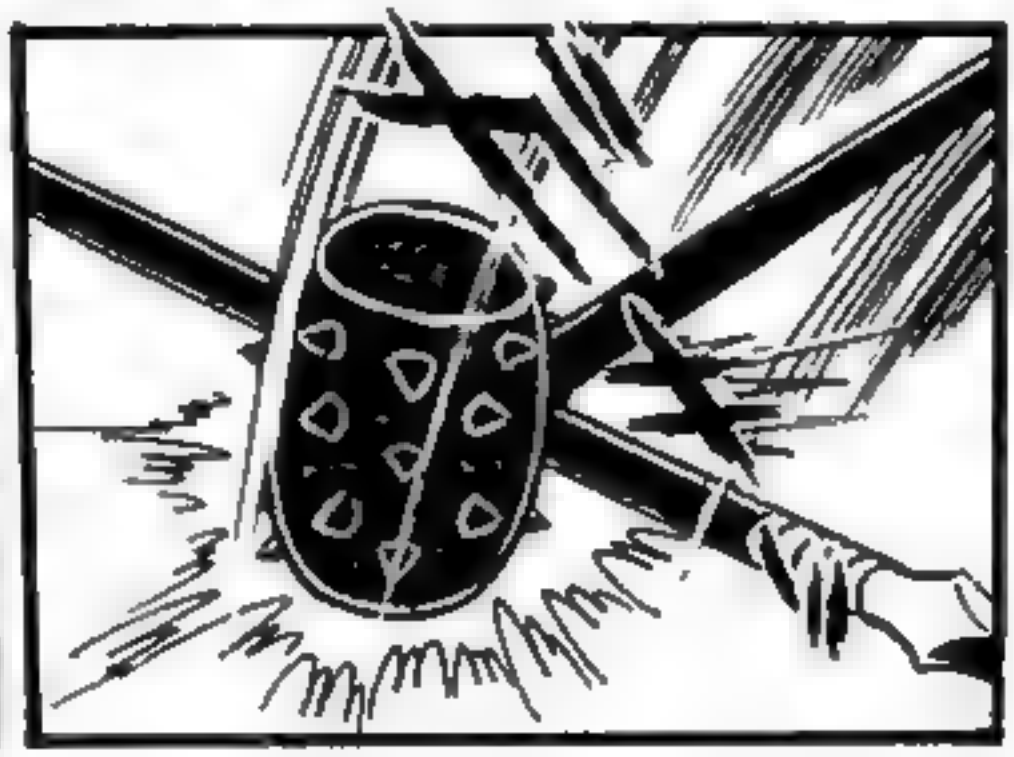




HAHA, YOU MAY LOOK TOUGH BUT I WONDER JUST HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE?

HALT, LU BU! I SHALL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR HEAD!





AGHH!

HE'S MAKING IT LOOK LIKE CHILD'S PLAY!

IT'S HOPE-LESS! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!

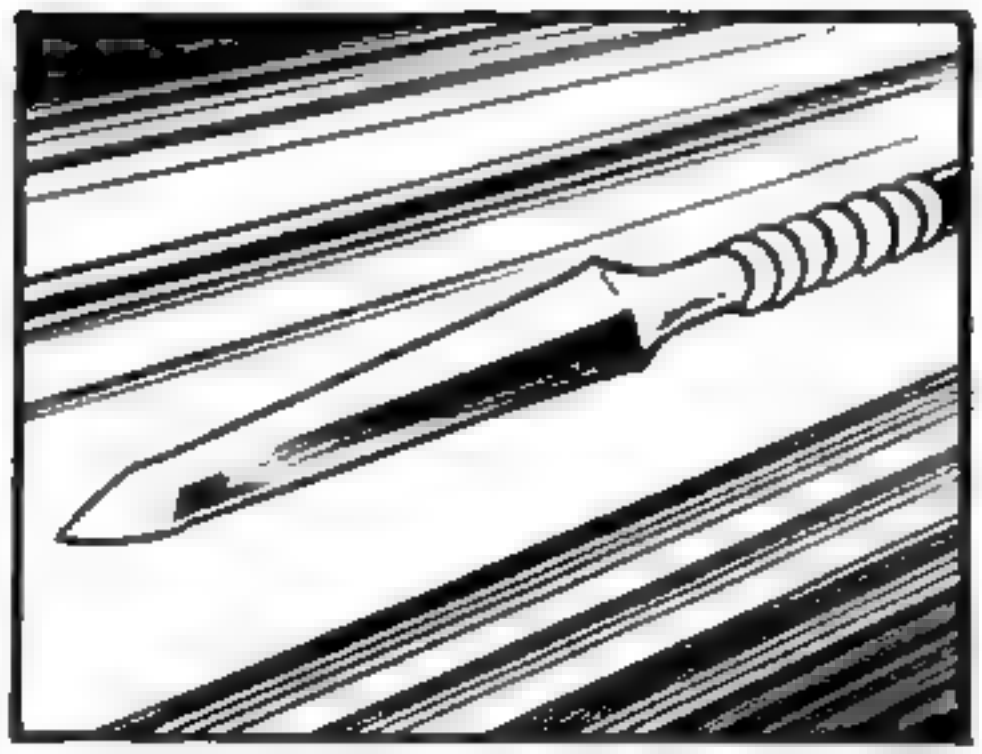
AHAHAHA! WHO DARES TO CHALLENGE ME NEXT!?

HE MIGHT BE A WORTHY OPPO-NENT.

THAT FLAG! IT MUST BE GONGSUN ZAN, THE GOVERNOR OF BEIPING COMMANDERY!

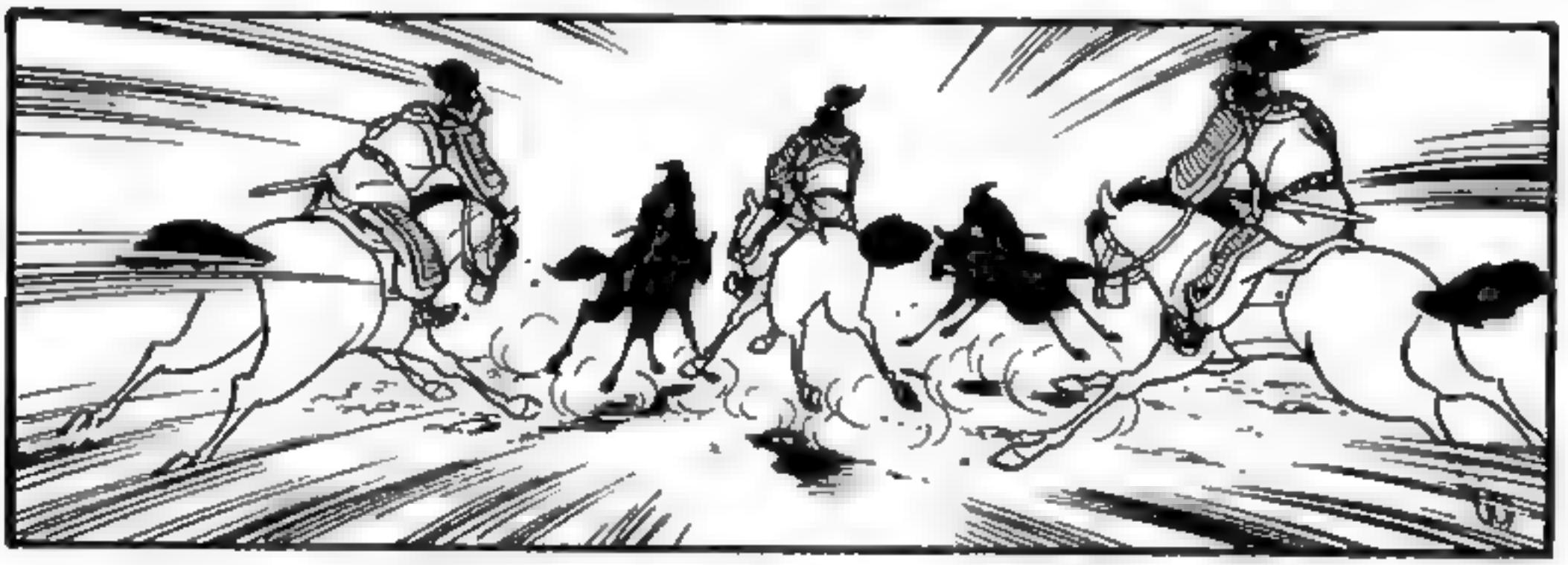
LU BU IS CHARGING IN ALONE!

THAT MAN TRULY KNOWS NO FEAR!



COME OUT, GONGSUN ZAN!

Y-YES...
SIR, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! YOU MUST FLEE AT ONCE!



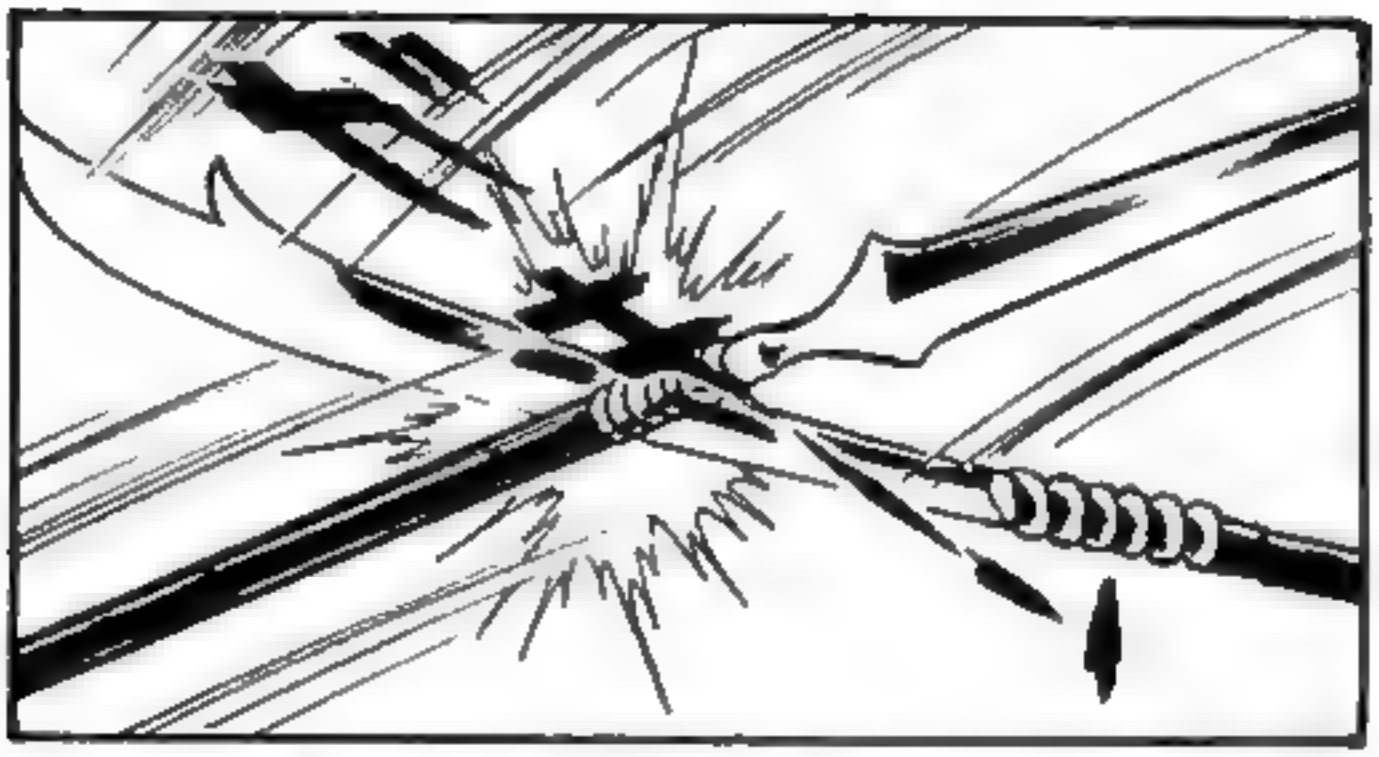
HALT!

GONGSUN ZAN, YOU COAWARD!

LU BU! I SHALL BE YOUR MATCH FOR TODAY!

HMPH, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING NO-NAME SERVANTS SO CLEAR THE WAY!

YOU SURE LIKE TO TALK BIG, DON'T YA? ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU WHO LIU BEI XUANDE'S BROTHER ZHANG FEI IS!



JUST WHAT IS A MAN OF THIS CALIBRE DOING AS A MERE FOOT SOLDIER...!?

WELL, WELL, WHAT A SURPRISE!

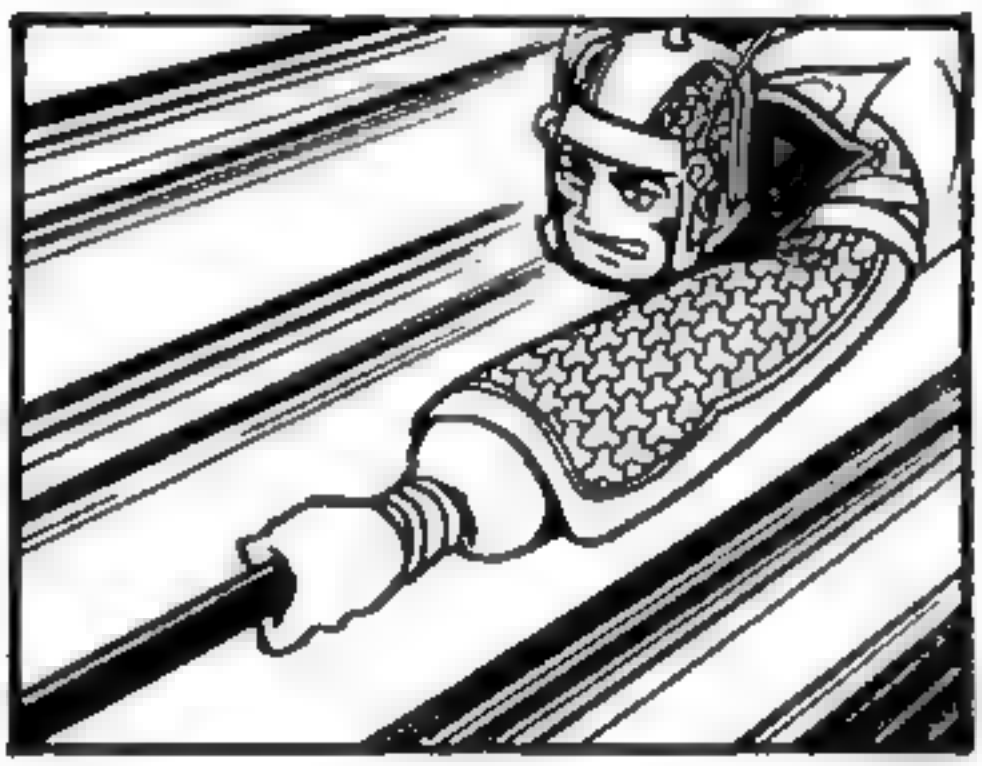
AND THE OTHER IS ZHANG FEI.

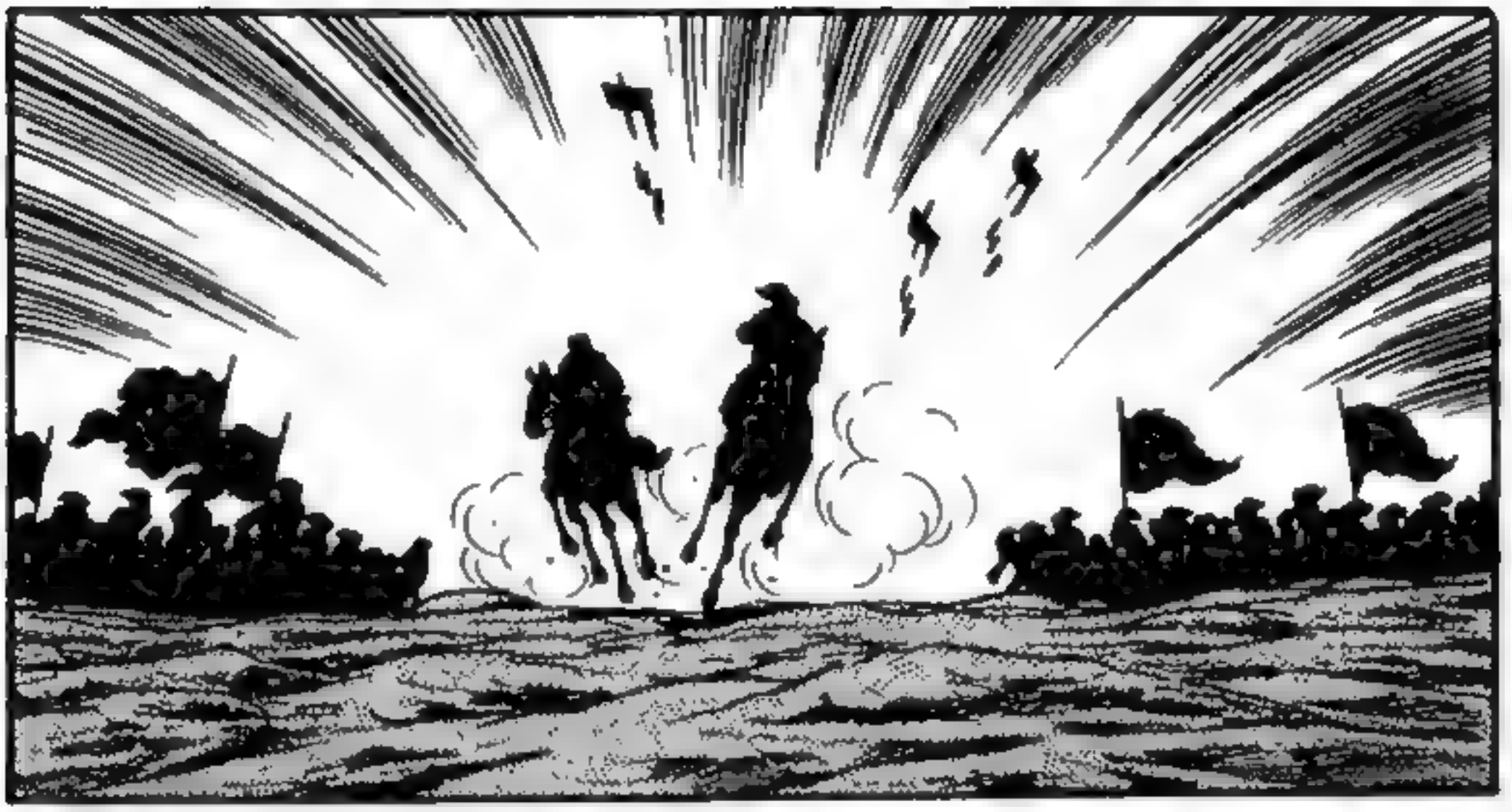
THE ONE ON THE RED HARE IS LU BU.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!

BOTH SIDES FORGOT ABOUT THE BATTLE AND SILENTLY WATCHED IN AWE

IN FRONT OF SUCH A FIERCE FIGHT,

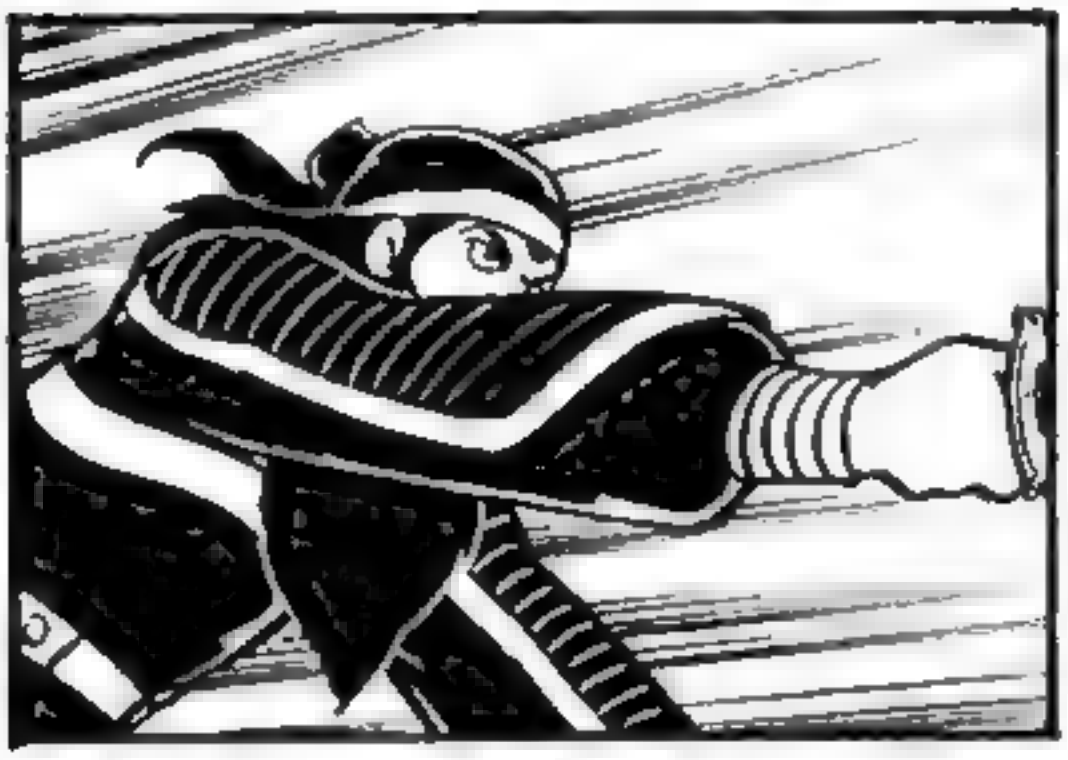




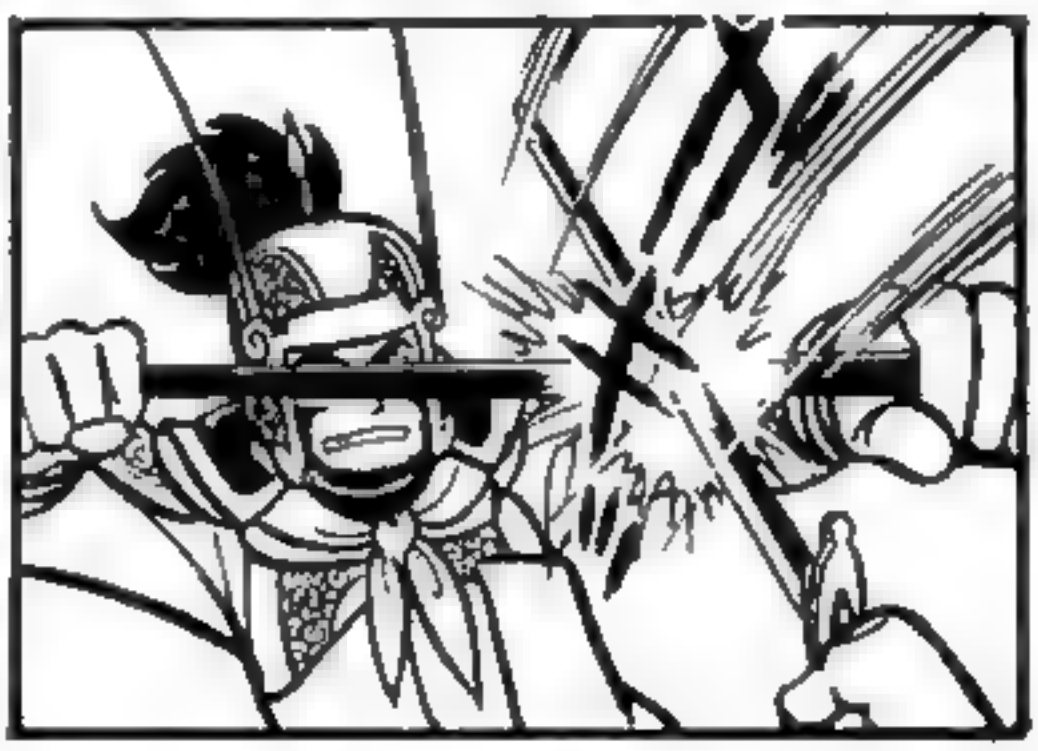
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
ZHANG FEI, DO NOT FALTER!

THEY'RE MY BROTHERS!

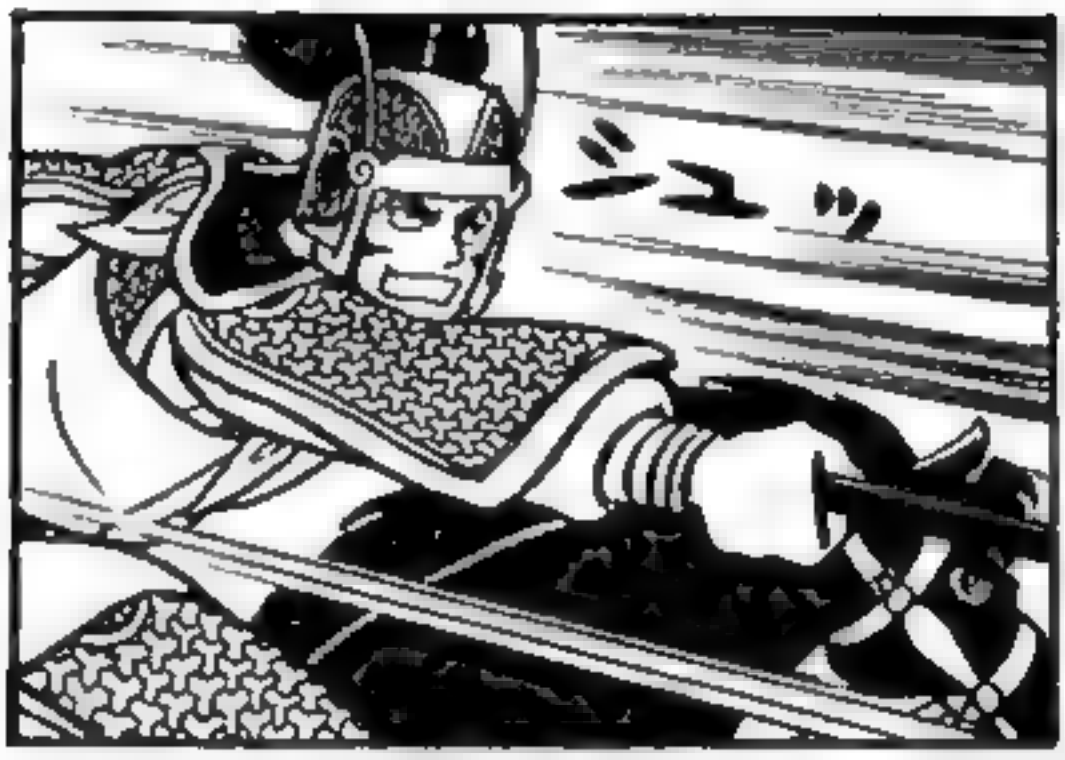
HMPH, ALLIES!?



TAKE THIS, LU BU!!



NGHHH!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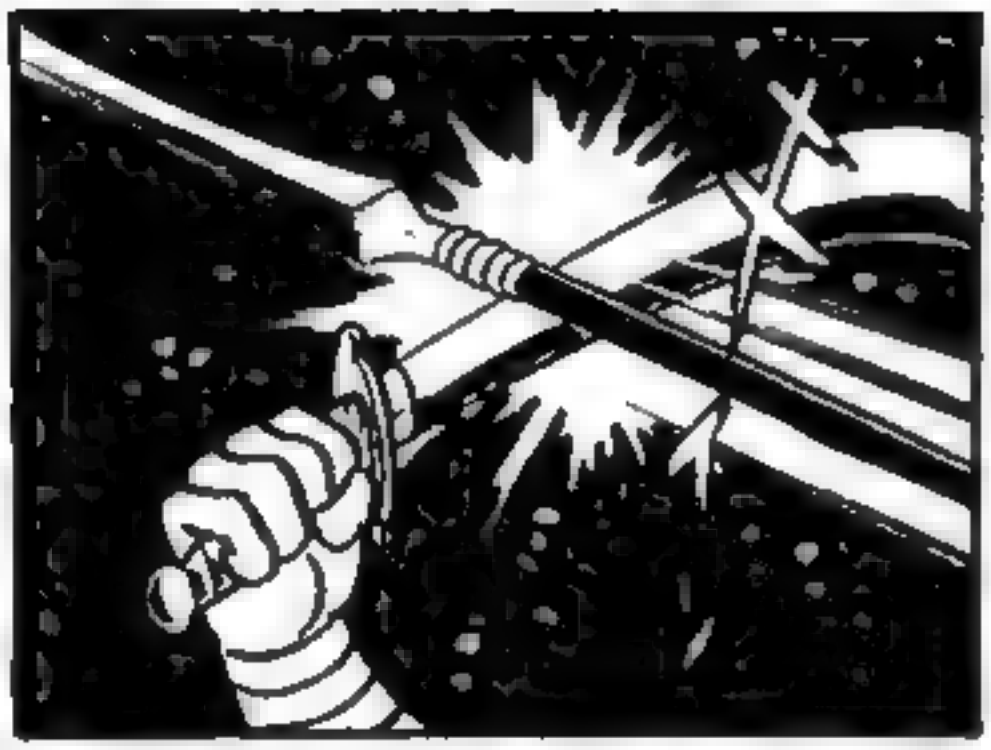
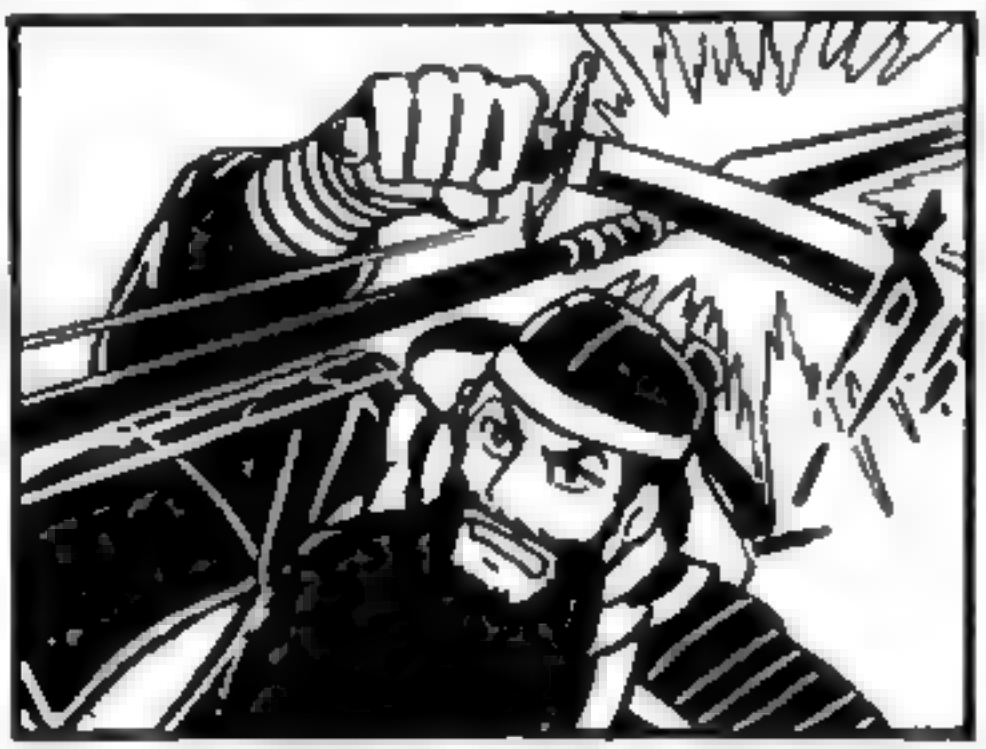




TO THINK THAT THERE ARE MORE ENEMIES OF ZHANG FEI'S CALIBRE ...!!!

RUNNING AWAY!?

AH!

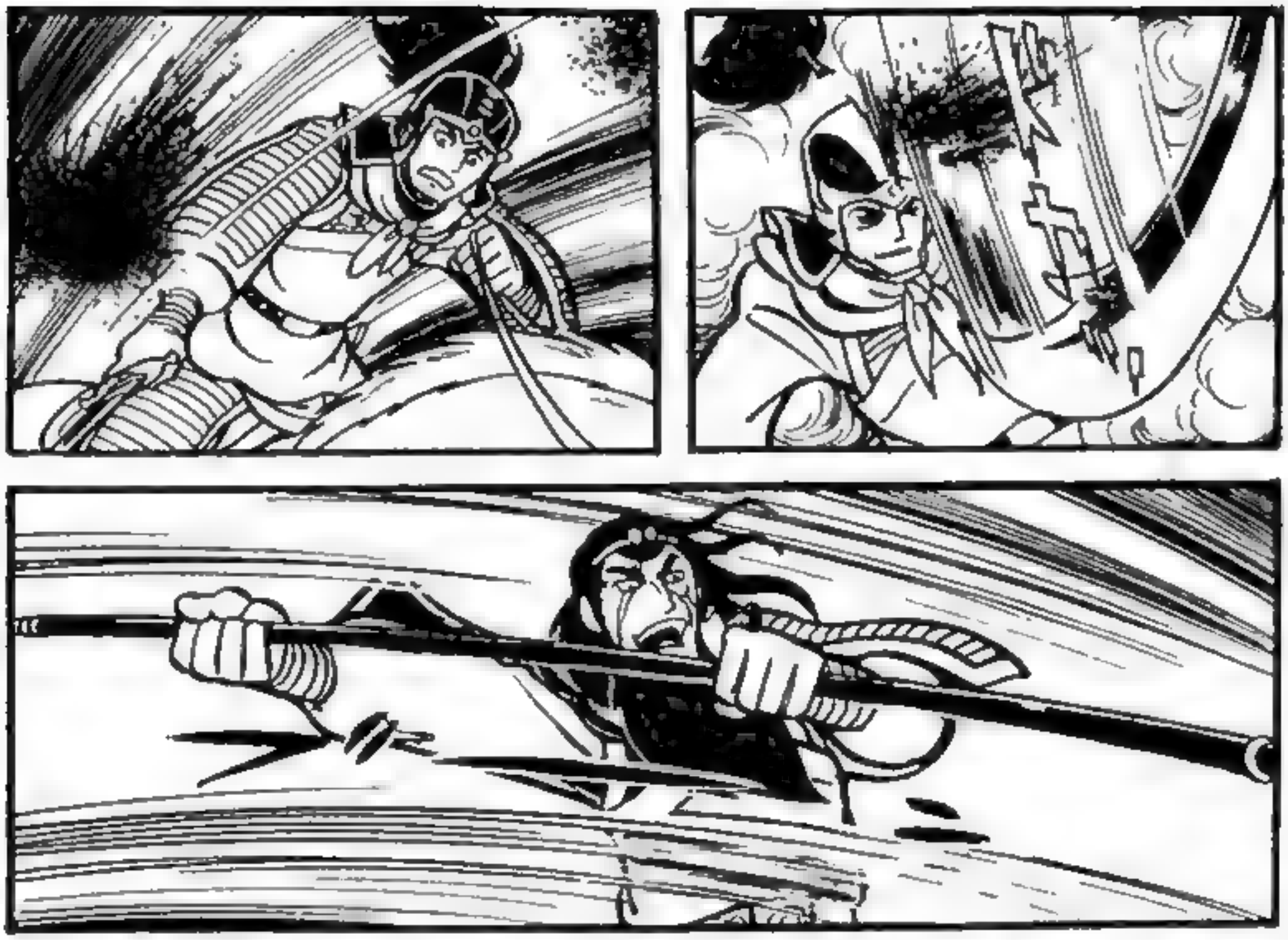
LET US FIGHT AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

ZHANG FEI, WAIT. HE'S RIDING ON *THE* RED HARE, A HORSE SAID TO BE ABLE TO RUN A 1000 LI A DAY.

HOW ABOUT I FINISH YOU OFF TODAY?

LU BU HAS FLED! NOW IS THE TIME TO CHARGE!!!

THAT'S RIGHT! CHARGE!!!

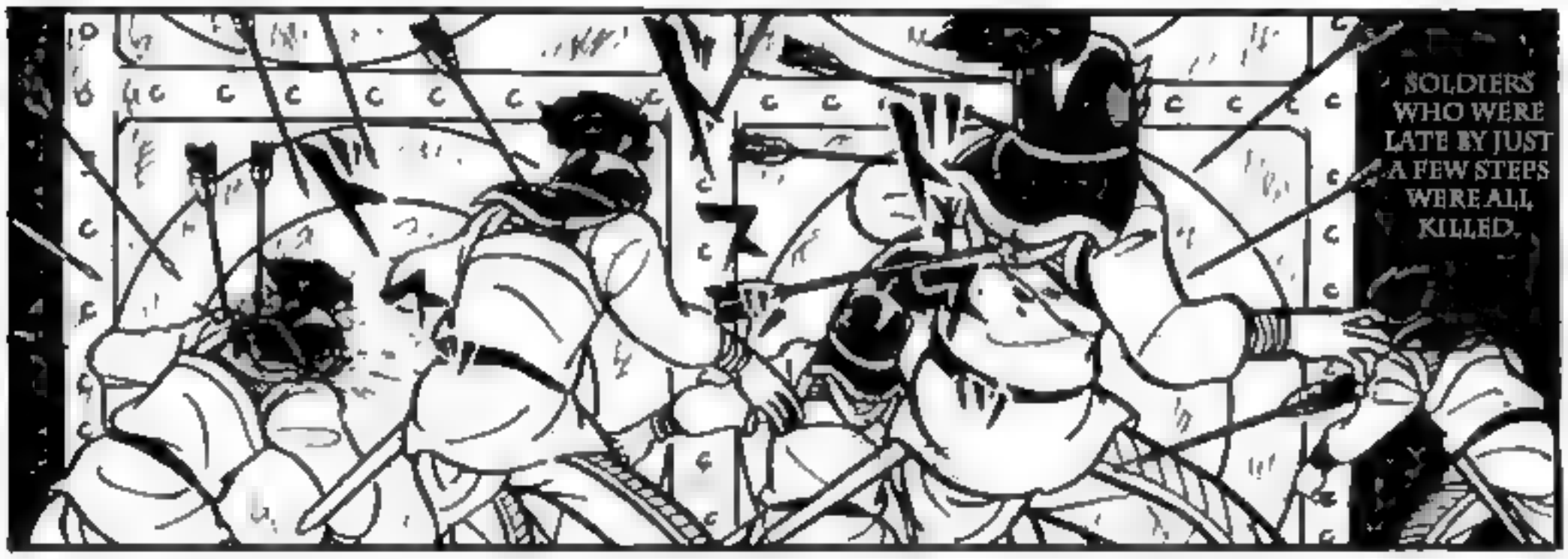


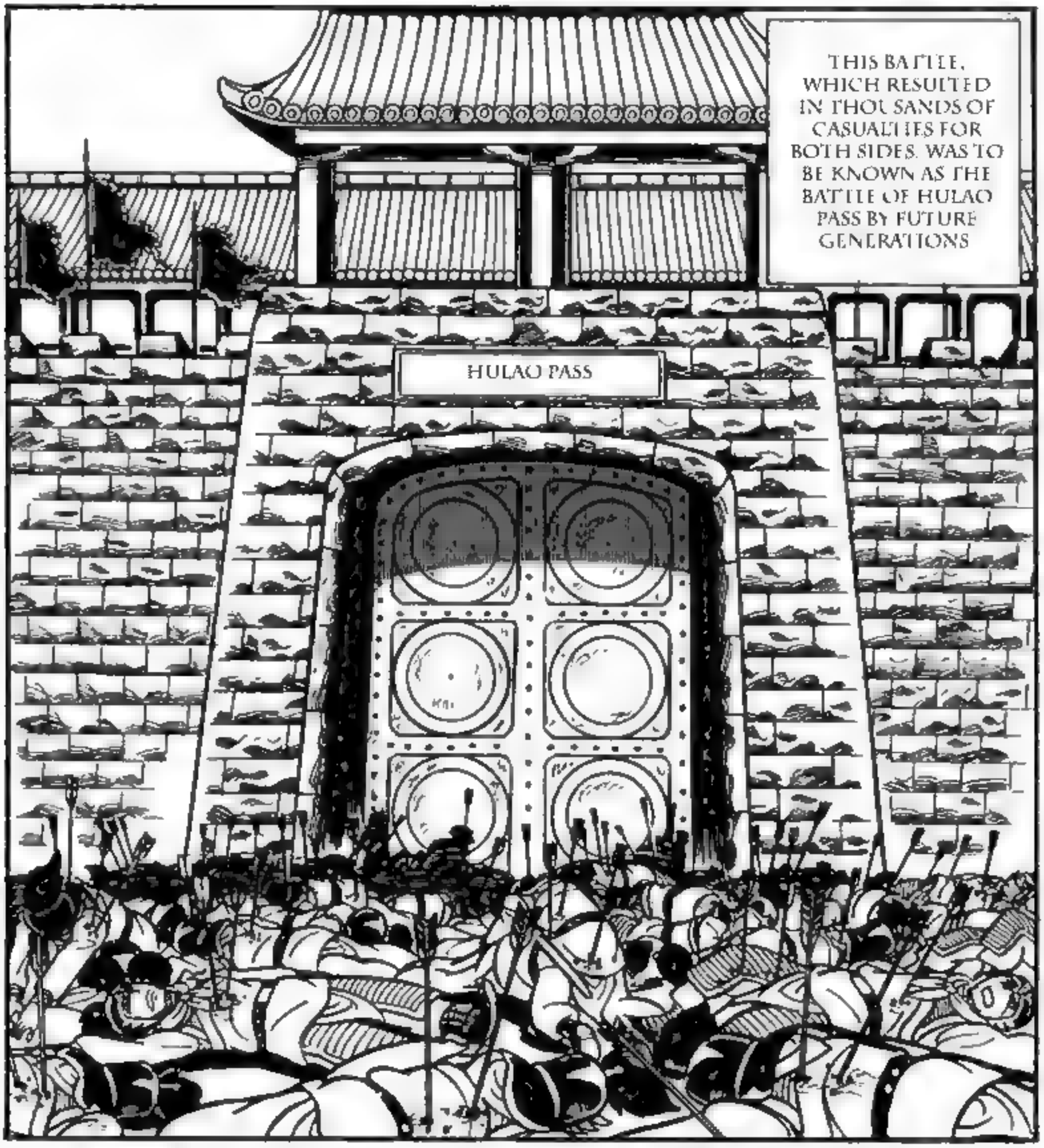
RETREAT BACK TO HULAO PASS!
AGHH!

CLOSE THE GATES NOW LEST YOU WISH TO RISK THE REBELS ENTERING TOO!

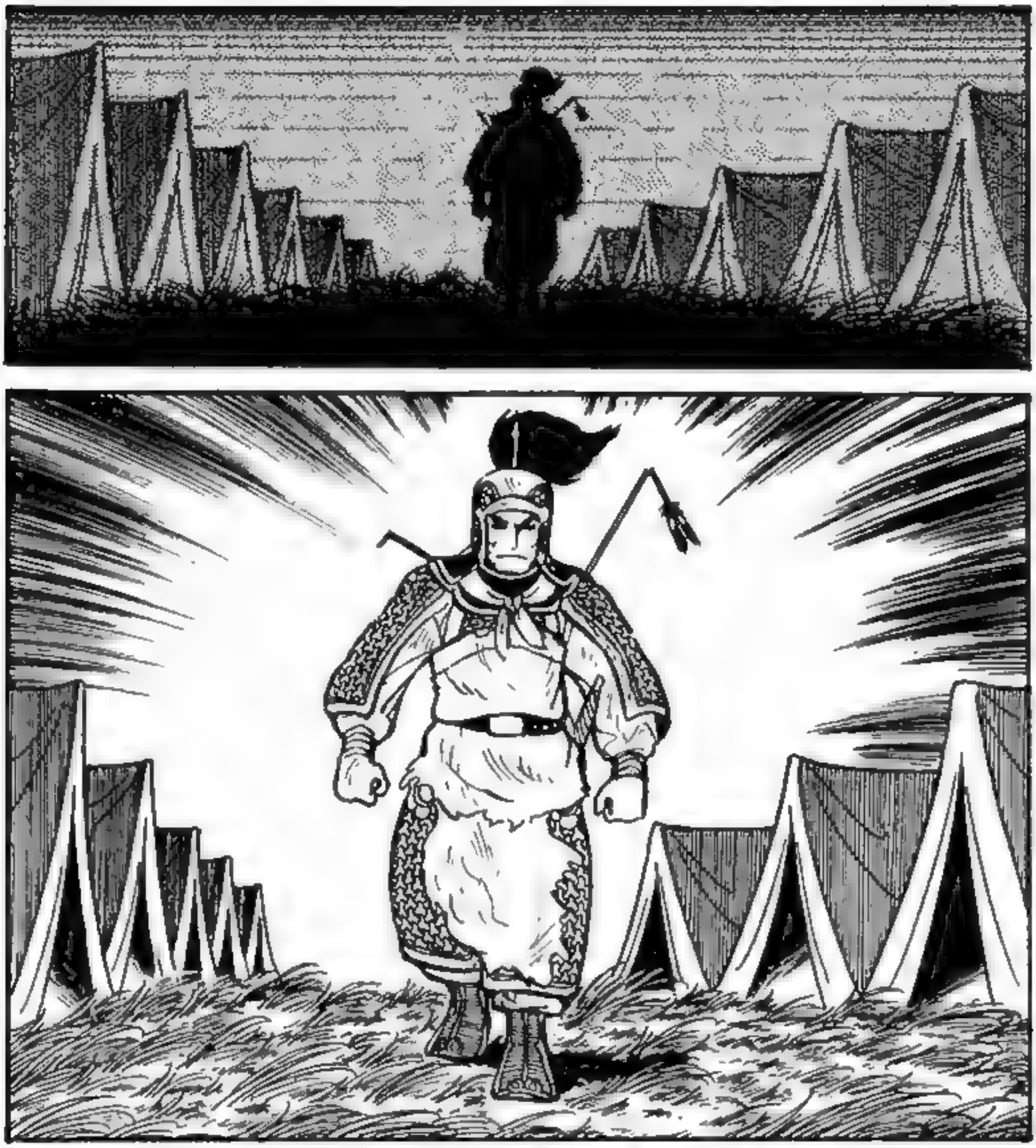
PLEASE! LET US IN!!!

NOOO! OPEN UP!


SOLDIERS WHO WERE LATE BY JUST A FEW STEPS WERE ALL KILLED.


THIS BATTLE, WHICH RESULTED IN THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES FOR BOTH SIDES, WAS TO BE KNOWN AS THE BATTLE OF HULAO PASS BY FUTURE GENERATIONS
HULAO PASS

RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL



WHERE IS YUAN SHAO?

G-GENERAL SUN JIAN! WHAT AN IMMENSE RELIEF IT IS TO SEE THAT SIR HAS ESCAPED SAFELY!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

THE COMMANDER IS HAVING A BANQUET WITH THE OTHER GENERALS AND GOVERNORS IN THE TENT OVER THERE.

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO KILL SOMEONE.
DID YOU SEE THAT!? HIS EYES WERE BLOODSHOT.

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

'TIS A PITY THAT YOU COULD NOT TAKE LU BU'S HEAD AS WELL.

MAGNIFICENT. A TRULY MAGNIFICENT VICTORY THAT YOU SIRS HAVE ACHIEVED.

LU BU MUST BE FUMING AT THE FACT THAT HE WAS BESTED BY OUR FOOT SOLDIERS ZHANG FEI AND GUAN YU, AND ENDED UP HAVING TO RUN AWAY.

HMM?

WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF CELEBRATING OUR GREAT VICTORY AT HULAO PASS. SIT DOWN HAVE A DRINK!

WELL, WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T SUN JIAN SAFE AND SOUND!

A QUES-TION?

BEFORE I DO THAT, I HAVE ONE QUESTION FOR COMMANDER YUAN SHAO.

BECAUSE OF THAT, MY MEN LOST THEIR STRENGTH TO FIGHT AND WERE CONSE-QUENTLY SLAUGHTERED. YOU MAY BE THE COMMANDER, BUT DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, I MAY HAVE TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY COMRADES.

JUST WHY WERE THE RATIONS NOT DELIV-ERED TO MY FORCES AT SISHUI PASS?

W-WAIT...! T-THAT WAS BECAUSE...

I BEAR NO PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST DONG ZHUO. I MERELY ANSWERED THE CALL TO ARMS TO RELIEVE THE PEOPLE'S SUFFERING AND FREE THE COURT FROM TYRANNY. AND EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ALLIES YOU REFUSED TO SEND MY MEN ANY RATIONS. IF YOU CANNOT GIVE ME A GOOD ANSWER RIGHT THIS INSTANT, I SHALL NOT HESITATE TO CUT YOU DOWN HERE AND NOW!

I HAVE NEITHER THE PATIENCE NOR TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR EXCUSES.

JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE, I SHALL BRING THE MAN RESPONSIBLE IMMEDIATELY!

I...I SWEAR I WAS IGNORANT TO IT ALL! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME MALICIOUS SCHEME OF MY UNDERLINGS!

MOVE IT!

I SHALL BEHEAD THIS MAN AS PUNISHMENT. I CAN ONLY HOPE THIS SHALL APPEASE YOUR ANGER.

S-SIR!

SUN JIAN, THIS IS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH HEINOUS DEEDS.

SILENCE! IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU THAT A CRACK BETWEEN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JIAN AND I HAVE APPEARED!

PLEASE, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND HOW DISGUSTED I FEEL BY THIS INCIDENT AS WELL. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT THIS CAN CALM YOUR RAGE IF JUST BY A LITTLE.

NOT YET, SIR.

HAVE THE REBELS NOTICED THAT WE'VE PULLED BACK FROM HULAO PASS YET?

I BELIEVE THAT A RELOCATION WOULD BE BEST WHILE THE REBELS ARE STILL UNAWARE...

THE REBELS PROVED TO BE MUCH STRONGER THAN I HAD EXPECTED. WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION TAKE FROM NOW ON?

YES, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO MOVE THE CAPITAL FROM LUOYANG TO CHANG'AN.

RELOCATION!? BY THAT, DO YOU MEAN TO RELOCATE THE CAPITAL!?

BUT IT IS A CITY THAT HAS BEEN UNDER SIR'S RULE FOR ONLY A YEAR. JUST WHAT IS THERE TO FEEL SO ATTACHED ABOUT?

BUT LUOYANG HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF HAN FOR GENERATIONS!

HMM... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE IS NO REASON WHY I SHOULD FEEL SO STUBBORN ABOUT REMAINING HERE.

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT THEN, MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS AT ONCE.

I MUST PREPARE TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

CHANCELLOR, PLEASE WAIT!

I BEG THE CHANCELLOR TO RETHINK HIS DECISION. LUOYANG IS A DISTINGUISHED CITY THAT IS A PART OF OUR GREAT HAN DYNASTY'S HISTORY. RELOCATING THE CAPITAL WILL ONLY CAUSE UNNECESSARY UNREST AMONG THE PEOPLE.

WE HAVE HEARD JUST NOW THAT SIR IS PLANNING TO RELOCATE THE CAPITAL.

WHAT OF IT..?

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH EACH AND EVERY WORRY THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE WHEN I AM PREOCCUPIED WITH MY GRAND STRATEGY FOR THIS COUNTRY!?

THE MERCHANTS WILL LOSE THEIR VENUE, AND THE FARMERS, THEIR FARMLAND. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS.

TAKE HIM AWAY!

SILENCE!

BUT CHANCELLOR, THE PEOPLE ARE THE COUNTRY! THERE CAN BE NO COUNTRY WITHOUT CITIZENS.

CHANCELLOR!

I SHAN'T FORGIVE ANY WHO DARES TO OPPOSE MY WILL! KICK THEM OUT FROM THEIR POSTS!

HMPH! I HAVE NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHEN THE REBELS ARE ON MY HEEL!

GO!

CHAN-
CE...OR,
WAIT!

WHO DARES
TO BLOCK
MY WAY!?

BUT EVEN SO, WE HAVE SOMETHING DIRE TO ASK.

WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF STOPPING SIR'S CARRIAGE.

WHAT IS THIS DIRE QUESTION, SPEAK QUICKLY!

YES. WHAT OF IT?

IS IT TRUE THAT SIR HAS DECIDED TO RELOCATE THE CAPITAL?

TO THROW THIS LAND AWAY WHICH CONTAINS SO MUCH OF OUR PROUD HISTORY WOULD BE DISCOURTEOUS TO OUR ANCESTORS.

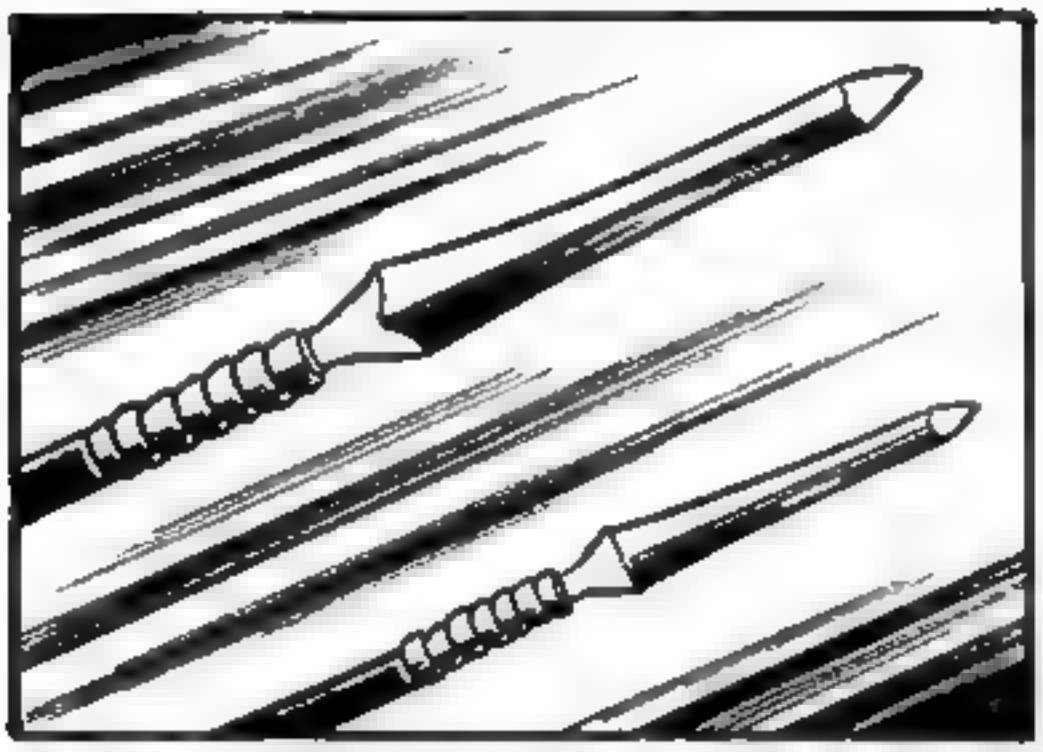
FOR OVER 12 GENERATIONS, THIS CITY HAS SERVED HOME TO THE ROYAL FAMILY.

WE WERE SHOCKED BEYOND BELIEF TO HEAR THAT SIR WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A RADICAL IDEA.

SILENCE! WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED HAS BEEN DECIDED!

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH! GUARDS, KILL THEM!

PLEASE CHANCELLOR! THIS IS ONE MATTER THAT WE CANNOT AGREE WITH, NO MATTER HOW LOYAL WE MAY BE AS YOUR SUBJECTS. PLEASE RECONSIDER...

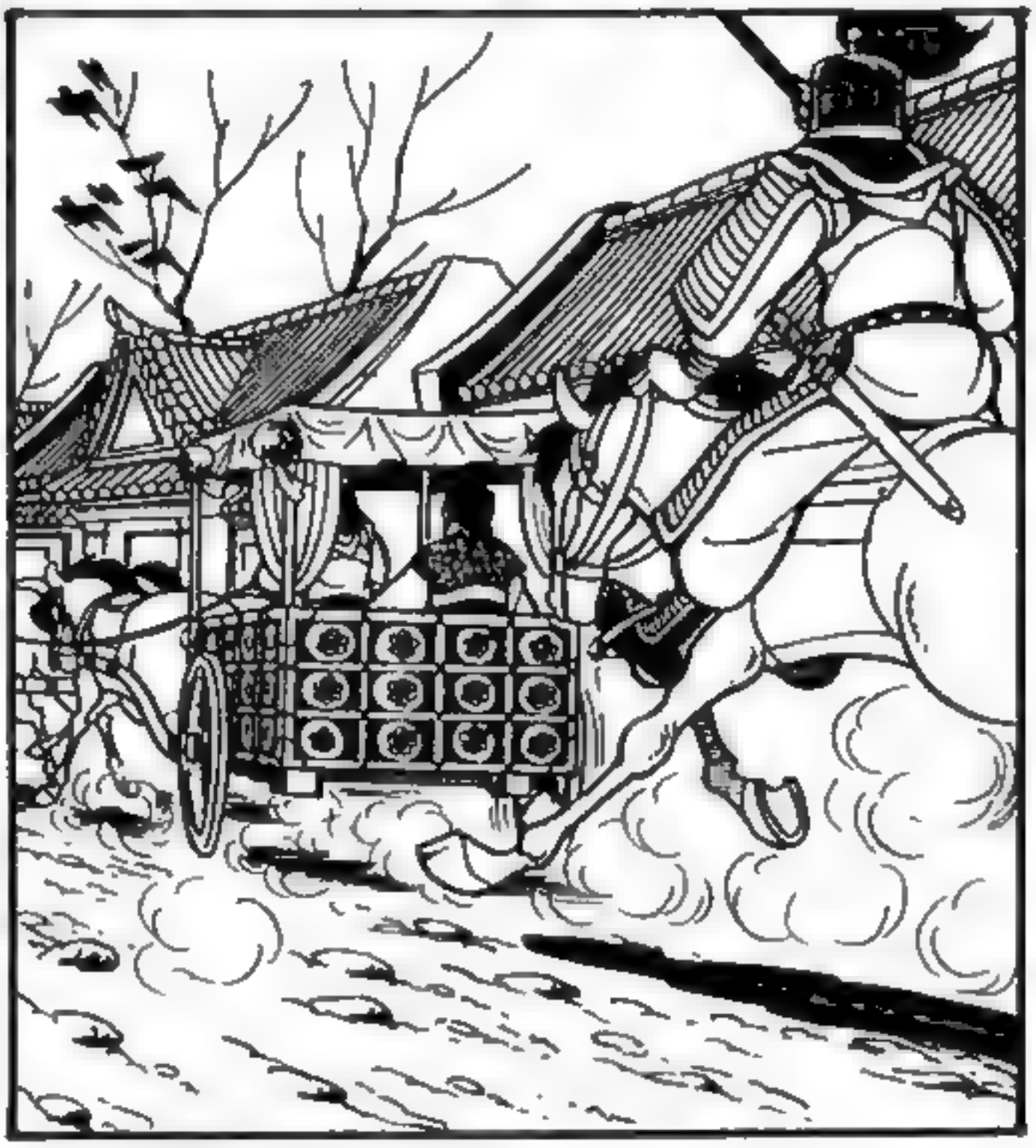


HMPH! DAMN IDIOTS SO TIED UP OVER A MERE CITY!

LOOK CLOSELY!

BA BA BA
NOW GO!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME.



YAWNN!

ARE YOU THERE, LI RU?

OF COURSE, SIR. THE NOBLES ARE ALL BUSY PREPARING FOR THE MOVE.

AND THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR THE REST OF THE CITIZENS OF LUOYANG.

HAVE YOU SENT OUT THE OFFICIAL NOTICE OF RELOCATION YET?

YOU CALLED, SIR?

YES, SIR.

IS IT NOT TRUE THAT OUR FUNDS ARE RATHER LOW RIGHT NOW?

BUT I'M SURE THAT THE RICHER NOBLES WILL HIDE THEIR WEALTH AND SECRETLY MOVE IT SOMEWHERE ELSE DURING THIS MOVE

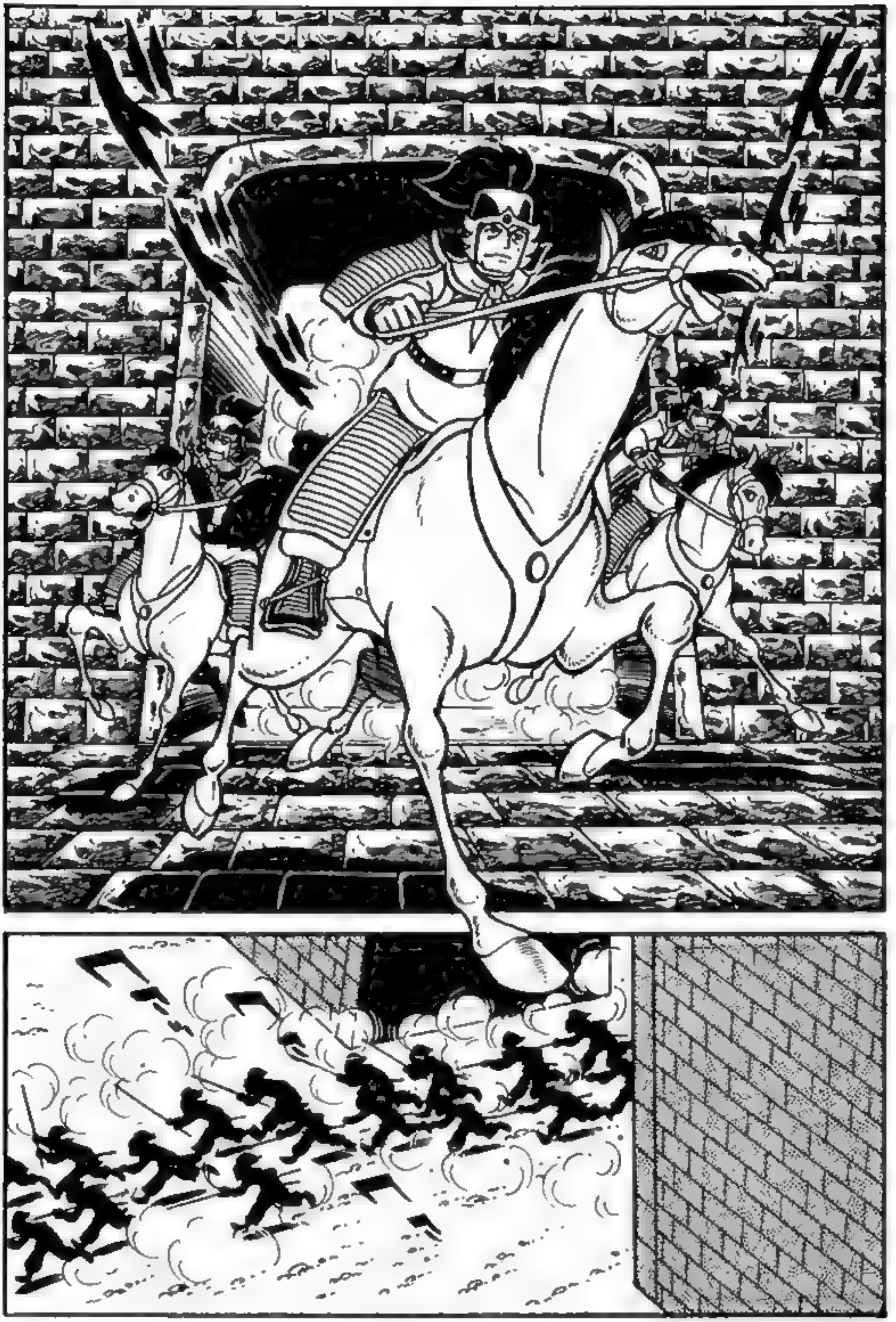
YES, SIR.

THEN IT IS CLEAR WHAT WE MUST DO. GO NOW AND CONFISCATE THE ASSETS OF THE RICH!

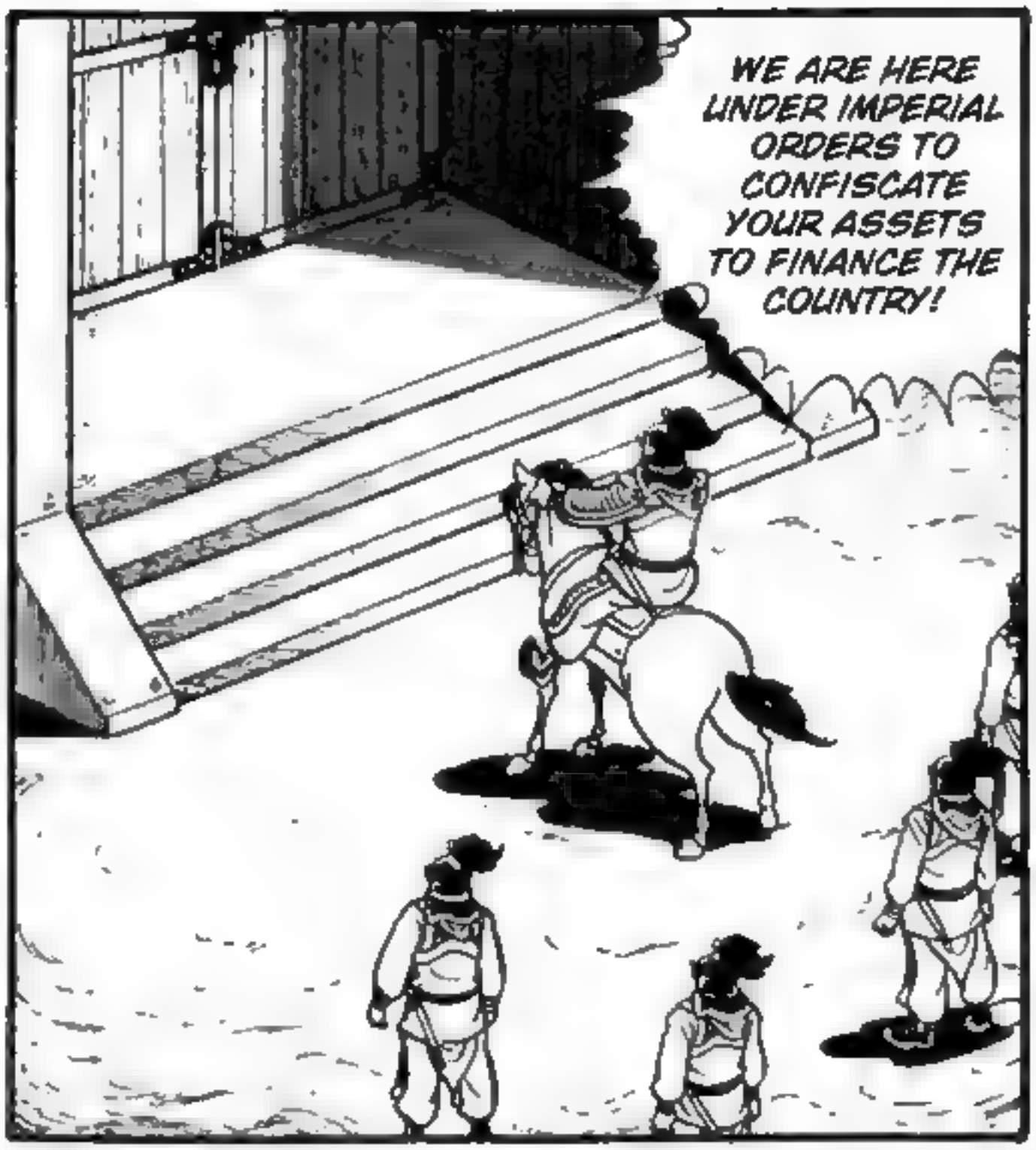
THUS, WE SHALL CONFISCATE THE ASSETS OF THE RICH IN LUOYANG!

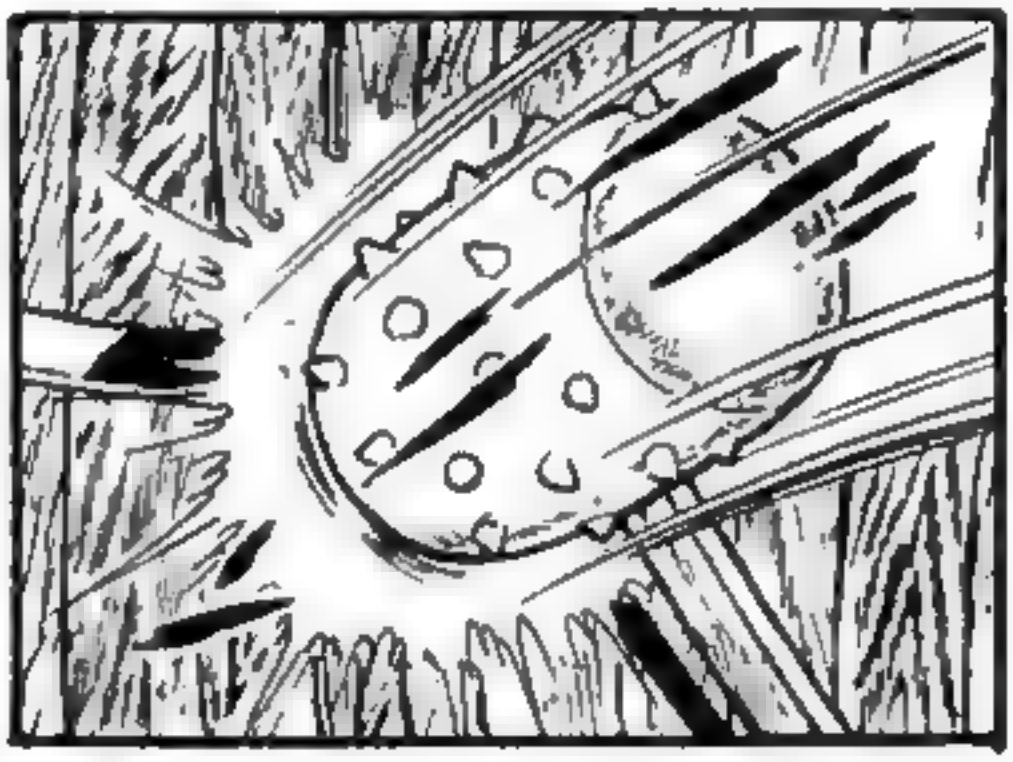
LISTEN UP MEN! THE ROYAL COURT NEEDS MONEY TO FINANCE NOT ONLY THE CONTINUING WAR WITH THE REBELS, BUT ALSO TO FINANCE THE RELOCATION TO CHANG'AN!

NOW GO!



SMASH IT DOWN!


WE ARE HERE UNDER IMPERIAL ORDERS TO CONFISCATE YOUR ASSETS TO FINANCE THE COUNTRY!



AHHHH!
KYAA!

CARRY OUT ANY VALUABLE OBJECTS!

OH, WHAT A PRETTY GIRL.

PLEASE SIR, THIS GIRL IS MY ONLY DAUGHTER!

KYAA!

I'LL HAVE TO CONFISCATE HER!

MOTHER!

COME WITH ME!

WE ARE UNDER ***ORDERS*** TO CONFISCATE ANYTHING VALUABLE. NOW SHUT UP LEST YOU WISH TO LOSE BOTH YOUR DAUGHTER AND YOUR LIFE.

PISS OFF!

I'M BEGGING YOU SIR, ANYTHING BUT MY DAUGHTER...!

HEE HEE!

WELL THEN, SHALL WE PARTAKE IN THE *FESTIVITIES* AS WELL?

HAHA, LOOK WHAT THE CAPTAIN'S UP TO!

KYAAA!

WHAT OF IT? ONCE THE REBELS COME STORMING TO LUOYANG, THEY'LL END UP TAKING HER ANYWAYS!

T-THAT'S MY WIFE! LET HER GO!!!

CAN'T LEAVE A SINGLE THING FOR THOSE REBELS!

SHUT UP!

PLEASE STOP SUCH IMMORAL ACTS AT ONCE!

KYAAA!

ALRIGHT MEN! DEPART FOR CHANG'AN!

YES, SIR.

HAVE YOU FINISHED CONFISCATING ALL THE GOODS?

OF COURSE, SIR. ALL THE PREPA-RATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

HAVE MY POSSES-SIONS ALL BEEN LOADED YET?

LET US NOW DEPART FOR CHANG'AN!

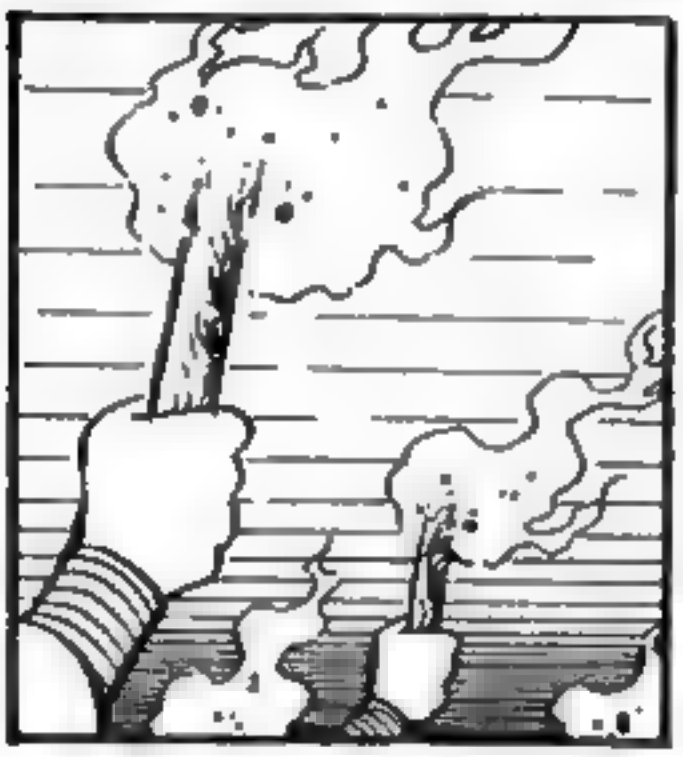
WELL DONE, LI RU.

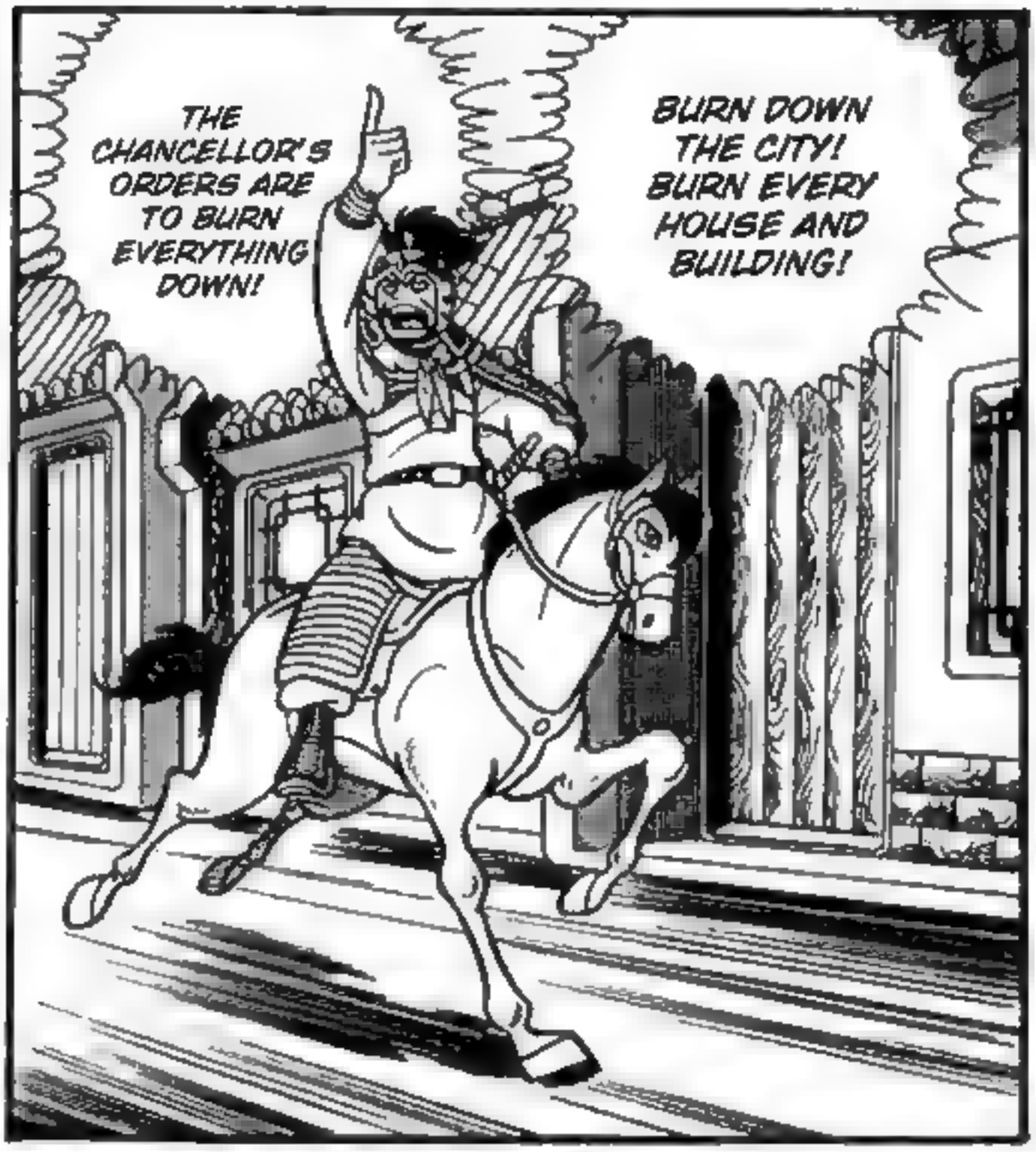
YES, SIR.

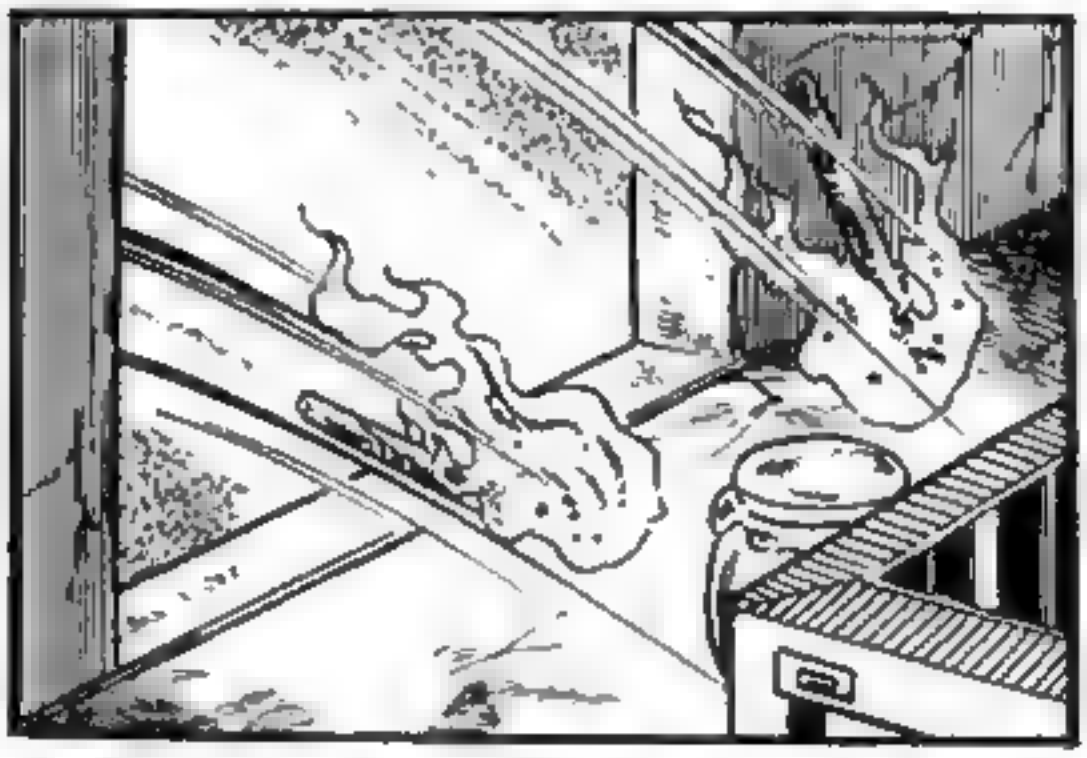
BURN DOWN ALL OF LUOYANG TO A CRISP. I SHALL NOT LEAVE EVEN A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS TO THOSE WRETCHED REBELS.

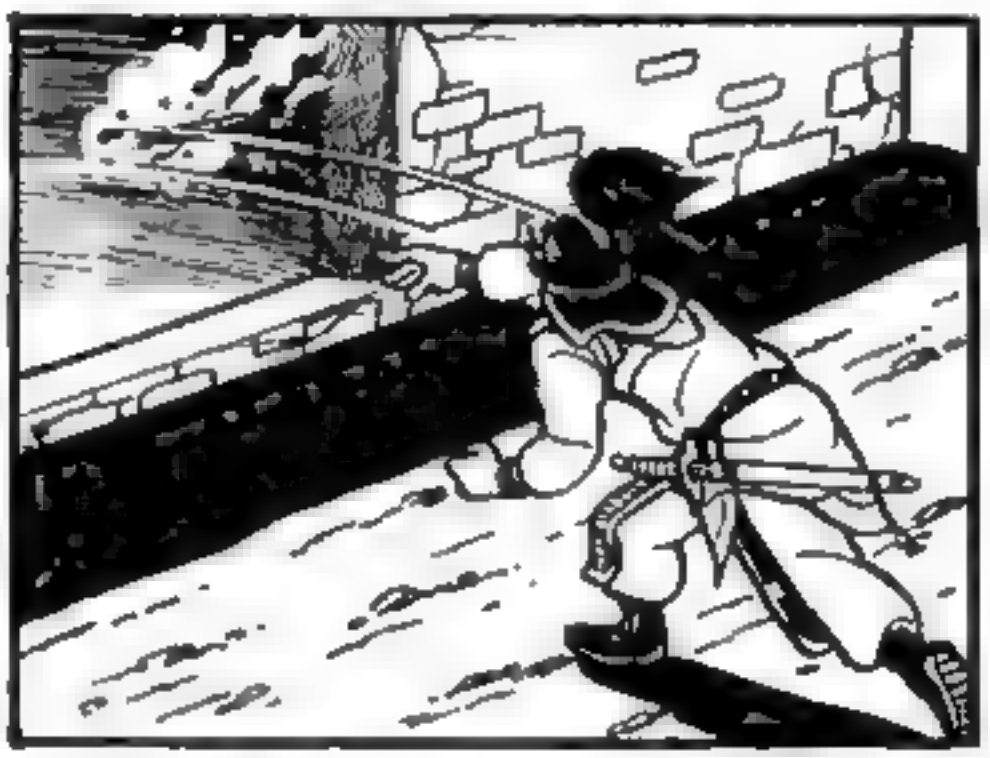
YES?

AH, ONE MORE THING.

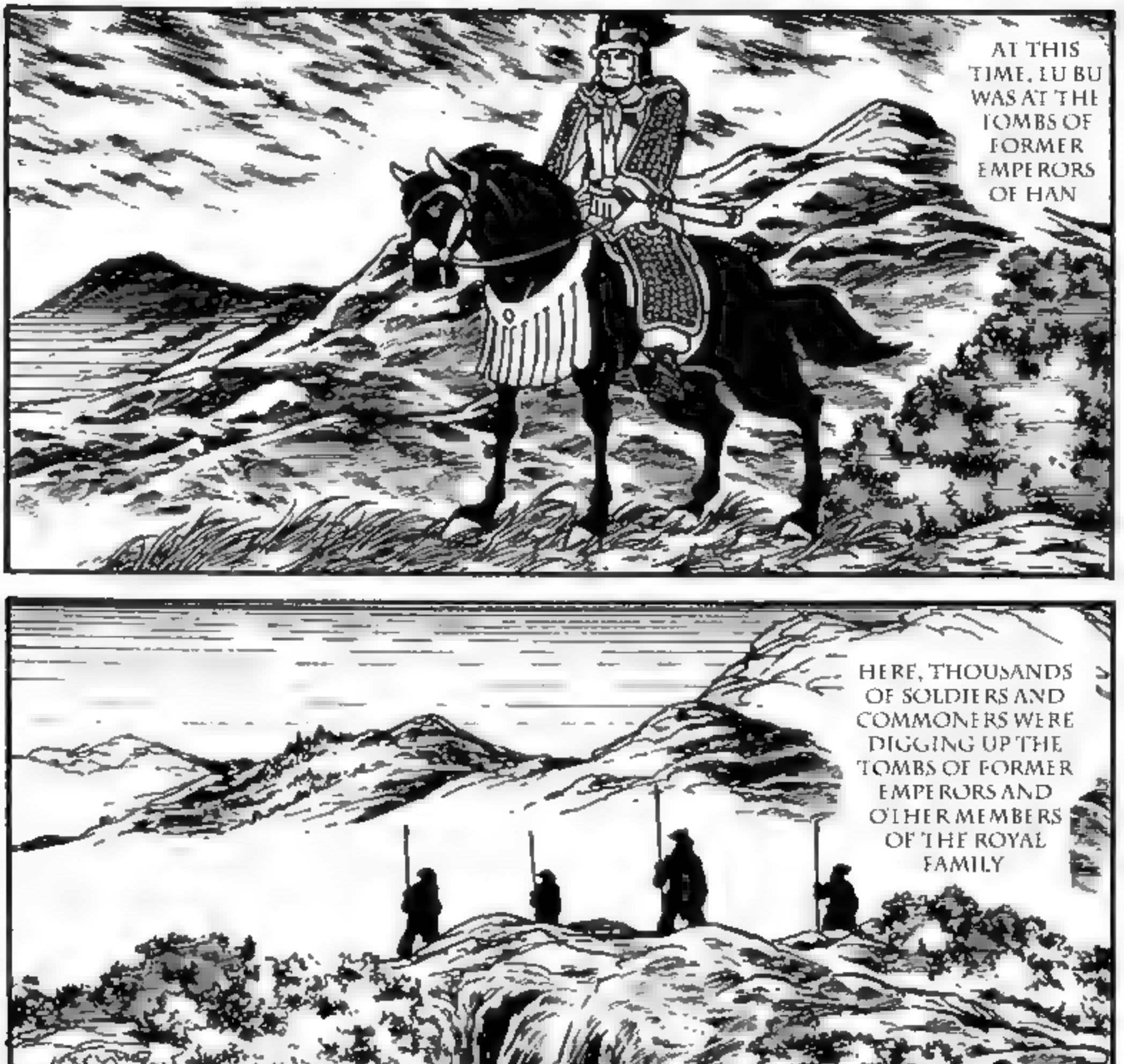


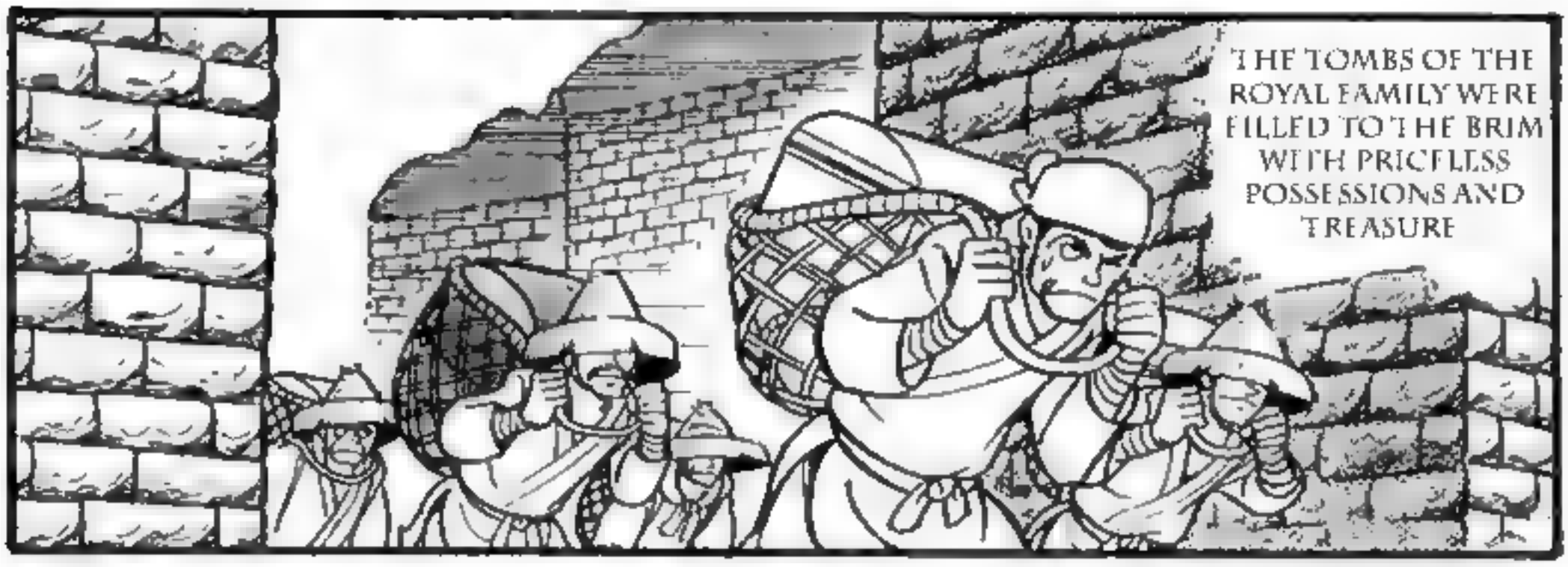

THE CHANCELLOR'S ORDERS ARE TO BURN EVERYTHING DOWN!
BURN DOWN THE CITY! BURN EVERY HOUSE AND BUILDING!

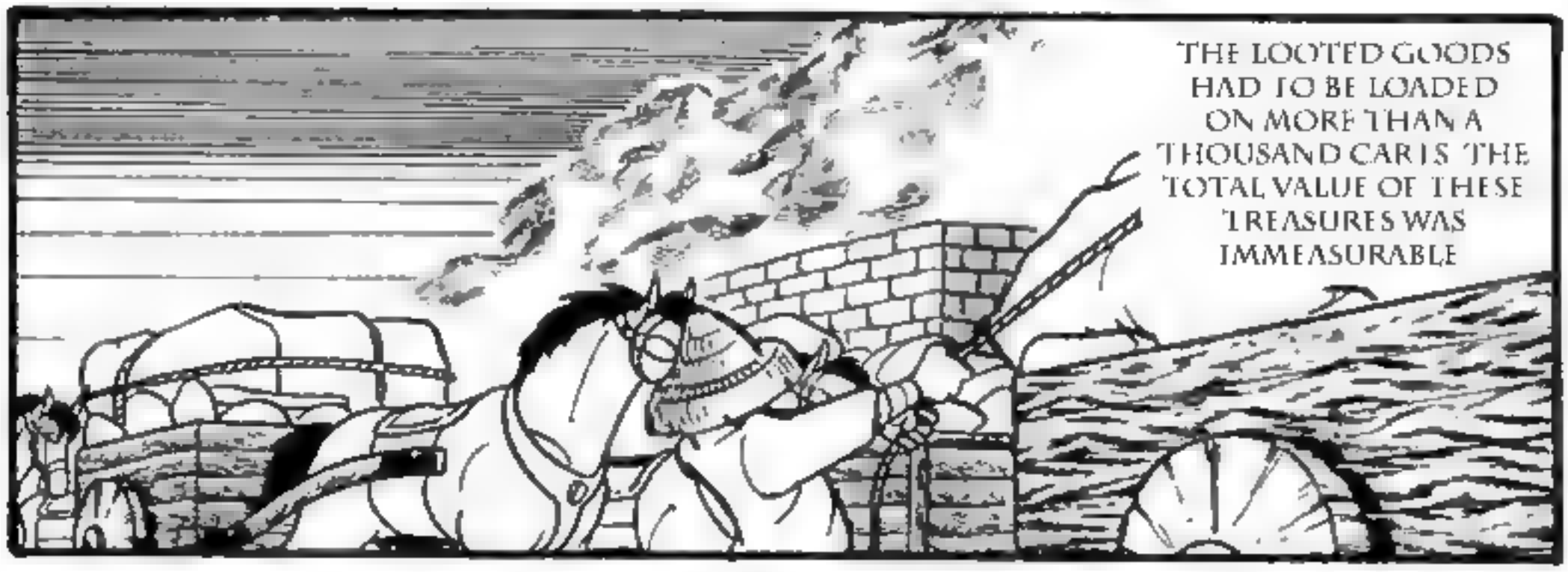


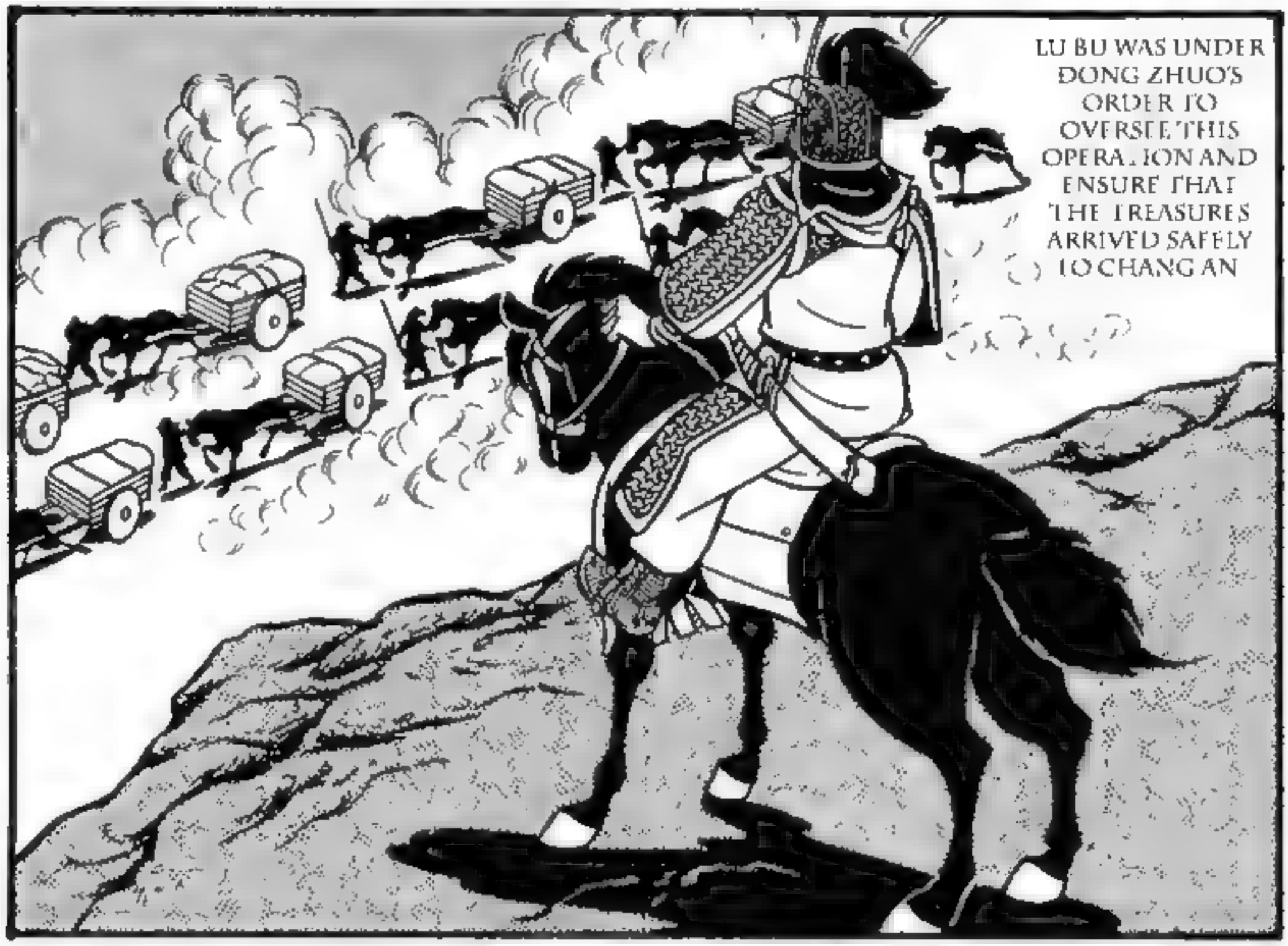


MY BELOVED HOME...
THE HISTORY OF 12 GENERA-TIONS OF HAN DYNASTY IS BURNING!

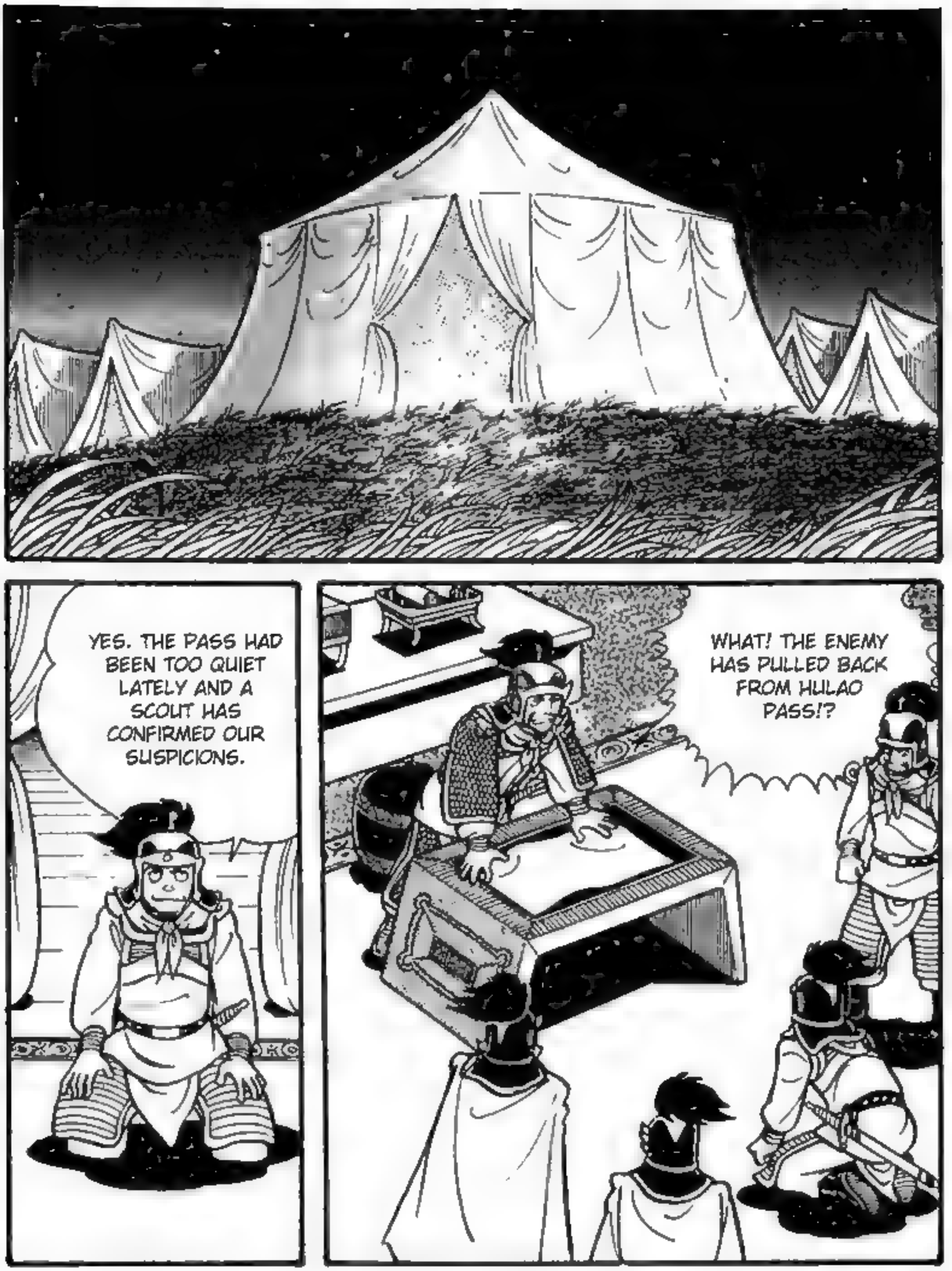

AT THIS TIME, LU BU WAS AT THE TOMBS OF FORMER EMPERORS OF HAN
HERE, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS AND COMMONERS WERE DIGGING UP THE TOMBS OF FORMER EMPERORS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY


THE TOMBS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH PRICELESS POSSESSIONS AND TREASURE


THE LOOTED GOODS HAD TO BE LOADED ON MORE THAN A THOUSAND CARTS THE TOTAL VALUE OF THESE TREASURES WAS IMMEASURABLE


LU BU WAS UNDER DONG ZHUO'S ORDER TO OVERSEE THIS OPERATION AND ENSURE THAT THE TREASURES ARRIVED SAFELY TO CHANG AN

THE SETTING SUN


YES. THE PASS HAD BEEN TOO QUIET LATELY AND A SCOUT HAS CONFIRMED OUR SUSPICIONS.
WHAT! THE ENEMY HAS PULLED BACK FROM HULAO PASS!?

SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

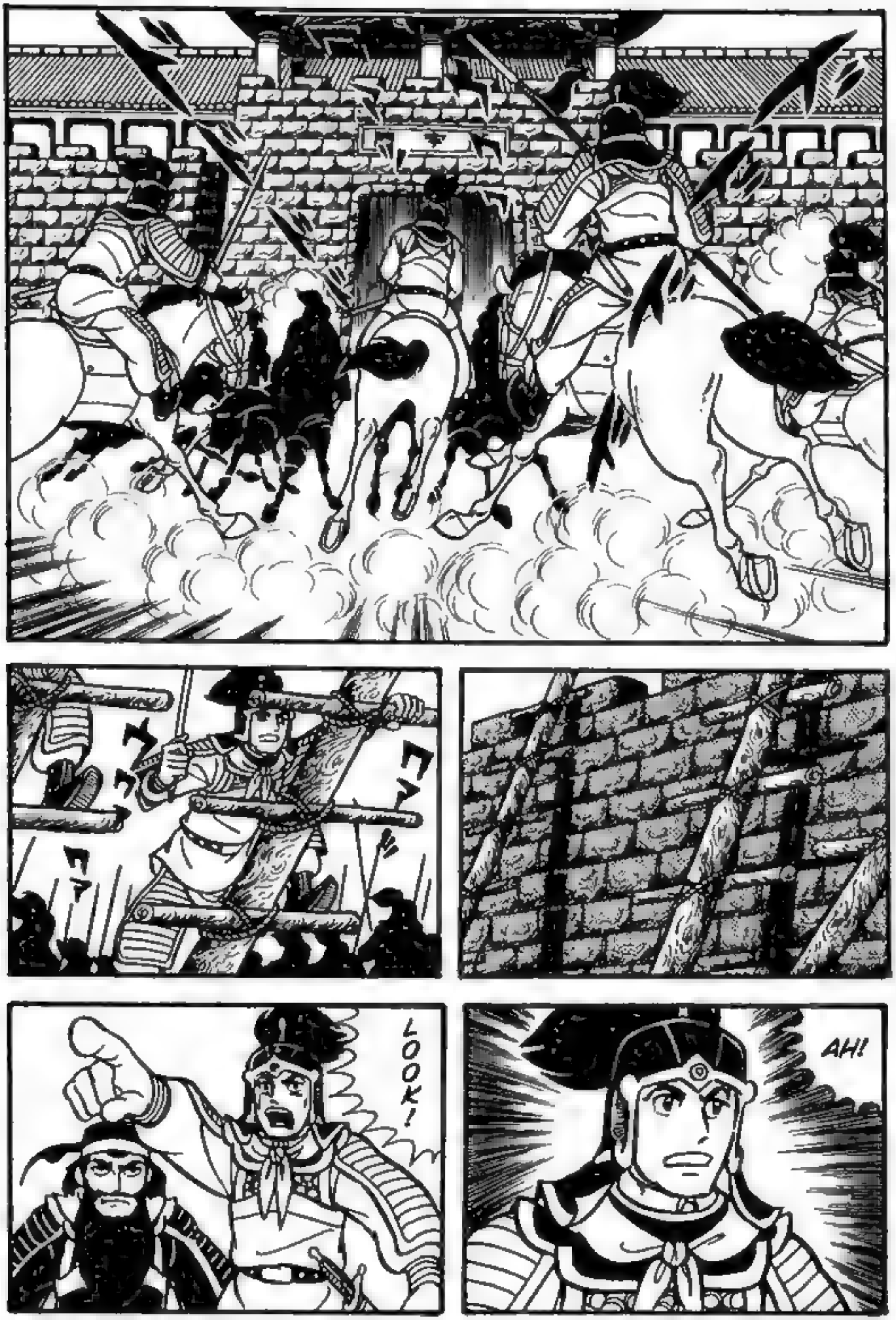
JUST WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

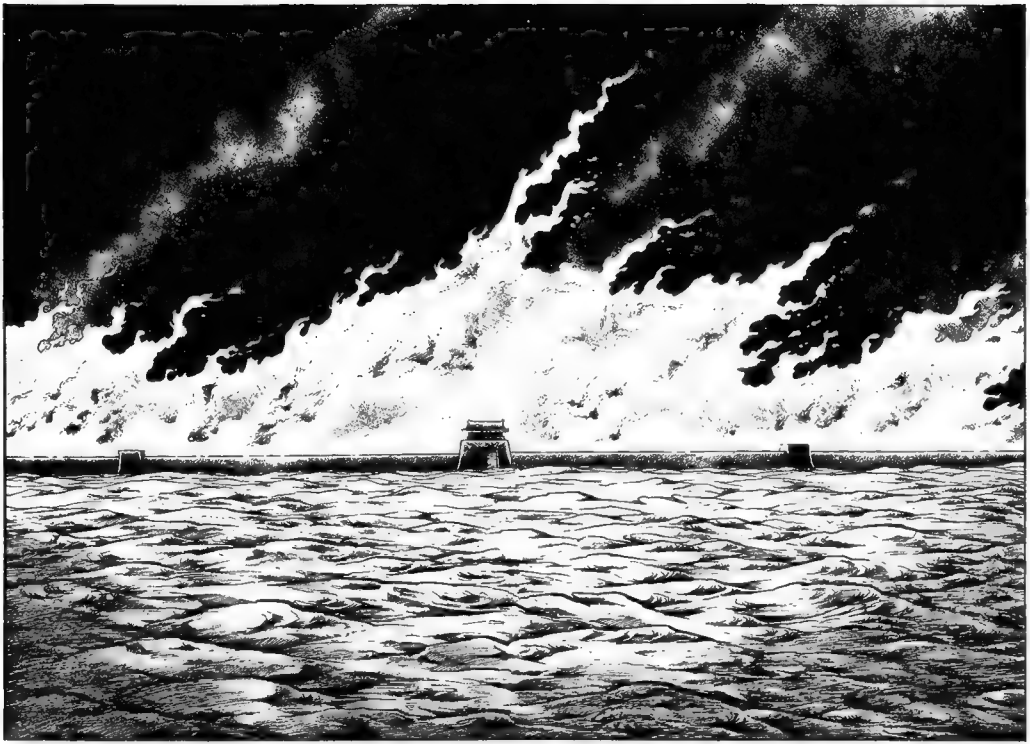
IN ANYCASE, GIVE THE ORDER TO THE TROOPS TO RUSH IN!

IT'S HARD TO SAY FOR SURE.

SO HAS DONG ZHUO FLED?

CHARGE! WE SHALL RUSH TO HULAO PASS, IMMEDIATELY!

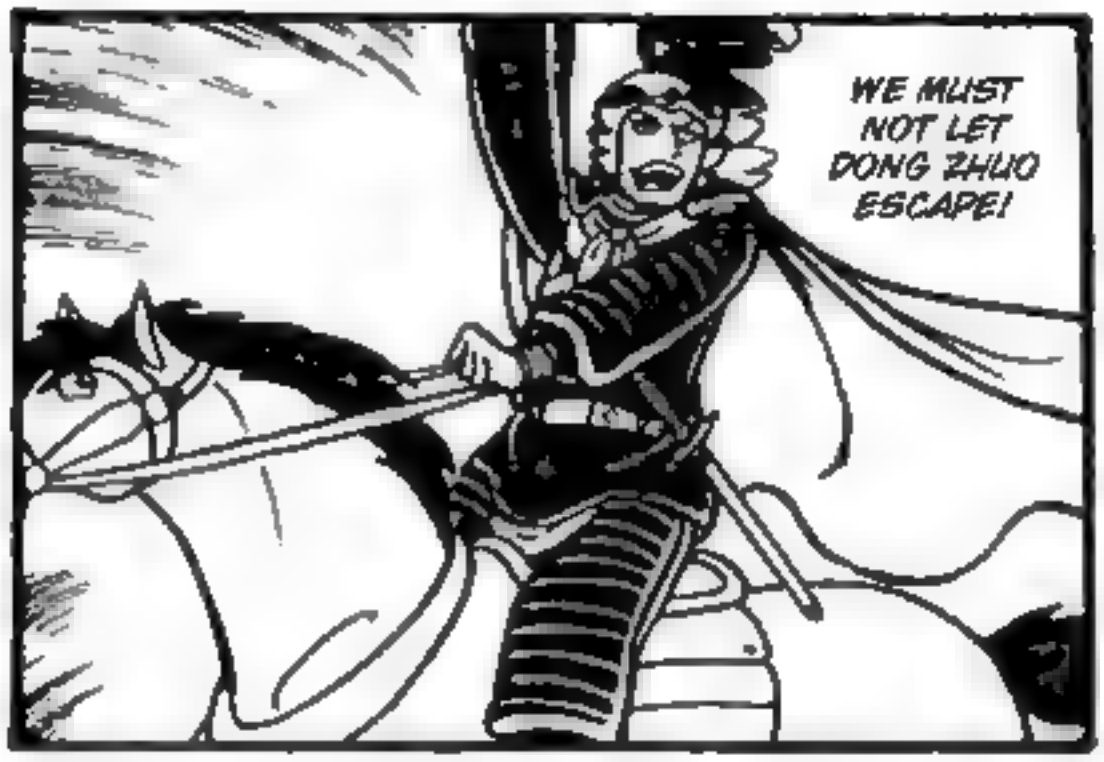

LOOK!
AH!



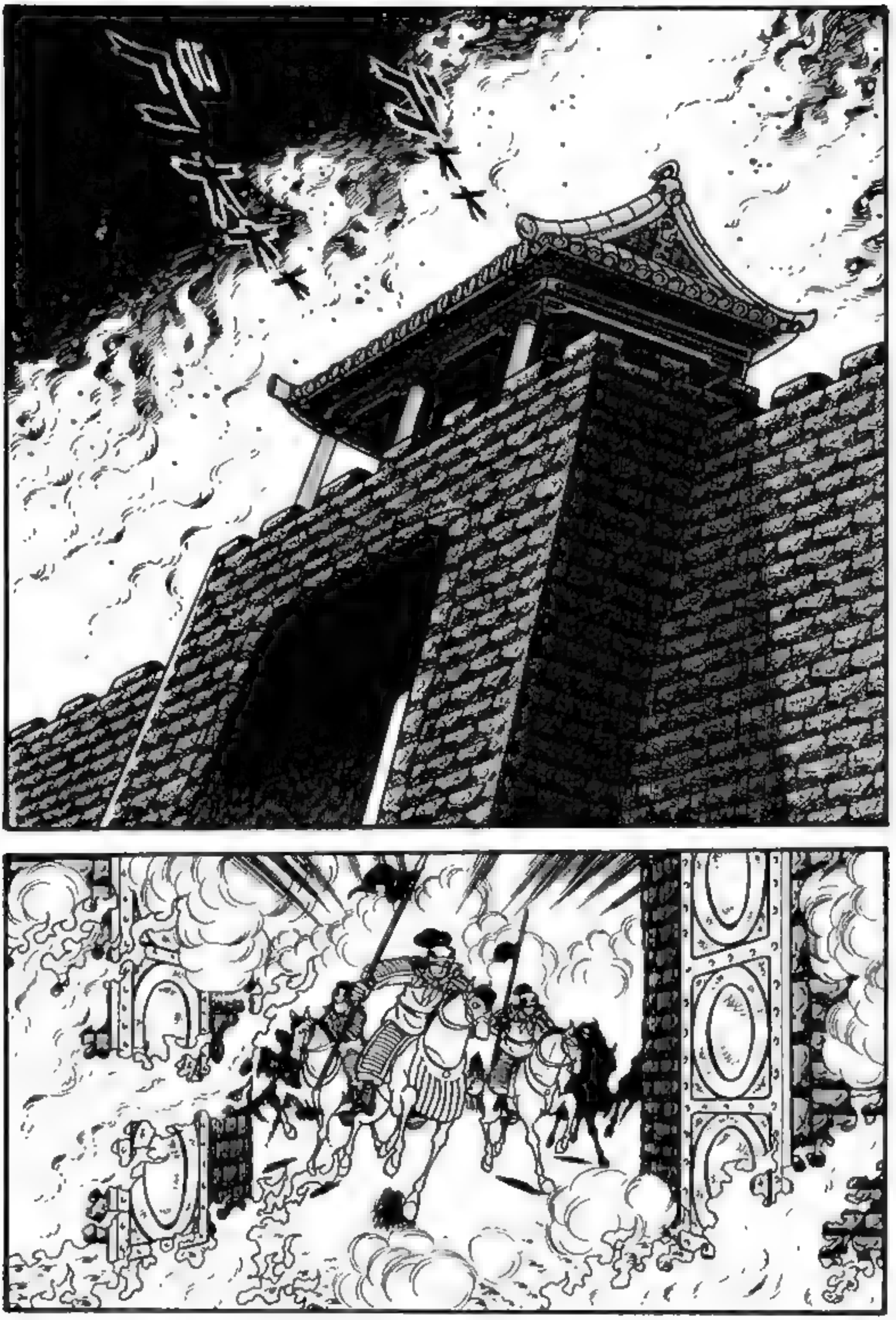
LUOYANG IS A SEA OF FIRE!

AHH!

NNGHHH! THAT DAMNED DONG ZHUO ALREADY FLED FROM THE CAPITAL!


WE MUST NOT LET DONG ZHUO ESCAPE!

HURRY UP, MEN! LET US CHARGE STRAIGHT AHEAD TO LUOYANG!



PILLAGING SHALL NOT BE TOLER-ATED! RESCUE ANY CITIZENS THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND!

PUT OUT THE FIRE AND SAVE THE CAPITAL!

COM-
MANDER
YUAN
SHAO!

WE MUST CHASE AFTER HIM AT ONCE WHILE HE'S STILL ON THE MOVE!

IT SEEMS THAT DONG ZHUO HAS RELOCATED THE CAPITAL TO CHANG'AN.

NO, OUR MEN AND HORSES ARE EXHAUSTED FROM ALL THE FIGHTING AND MARCHING. IT WOULD BE BEST TO REST HERE IN LUOYANG FOR 2-3 DAYS BEFORE PURSUING HIM AGAIN.

QUIET, CAO CAO!

JUST WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO TRYING TO REST HERE IN THIS BURNING HELLHOLE!? WE MUST PURSUE DONG ZHUO AT ONCE BEFORE HE REORGANIZES HIS ARMY AGAIN!

BUT IN EVERY BATTLE, THERE IS A LIMITED TIME FRAME FOR SUCCESS. TO LET IT PASS US WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO LETTING VICTORY PASS BY.

I SHALL GIVE THE ORDER TO PURSUE DONG ZHUO WITHIN DUE TIME.

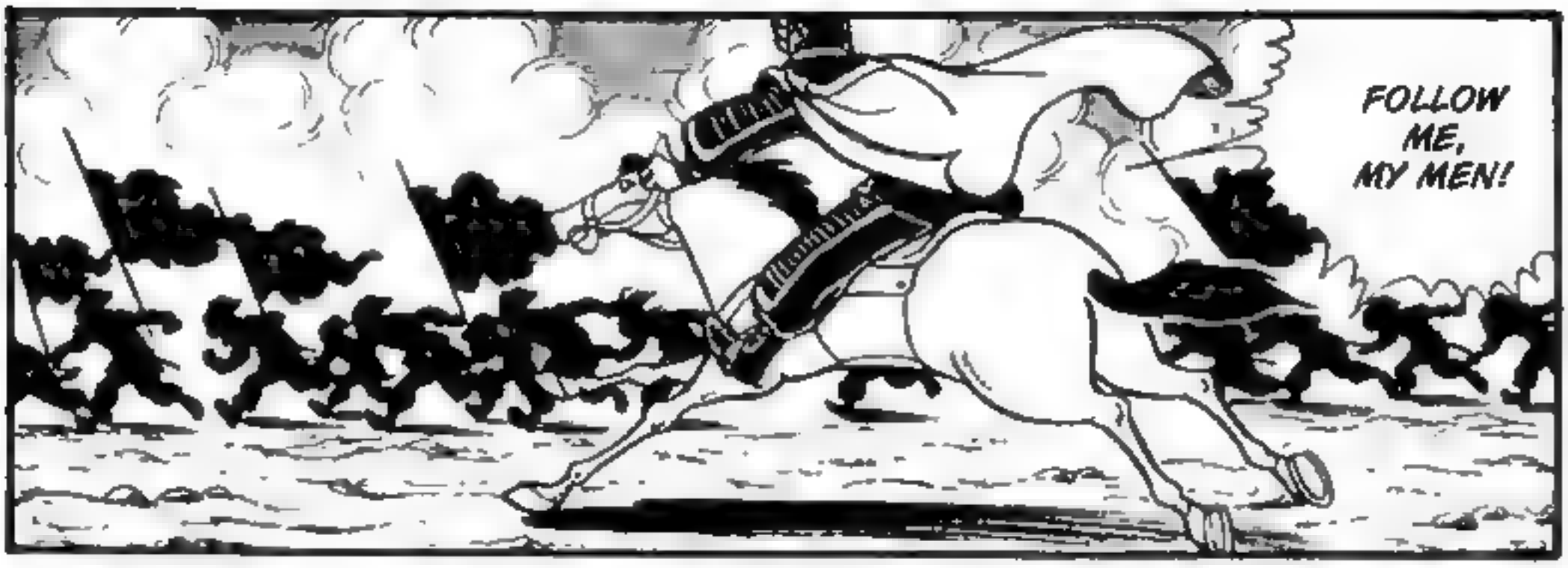
IT WAS YOU PEOPLE WHO ELECTED ME TO ACT AS THE COMMANDER SO YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS.

RESTING OUR TROOPS IS OUR IMMEDIATE PRIORITY.

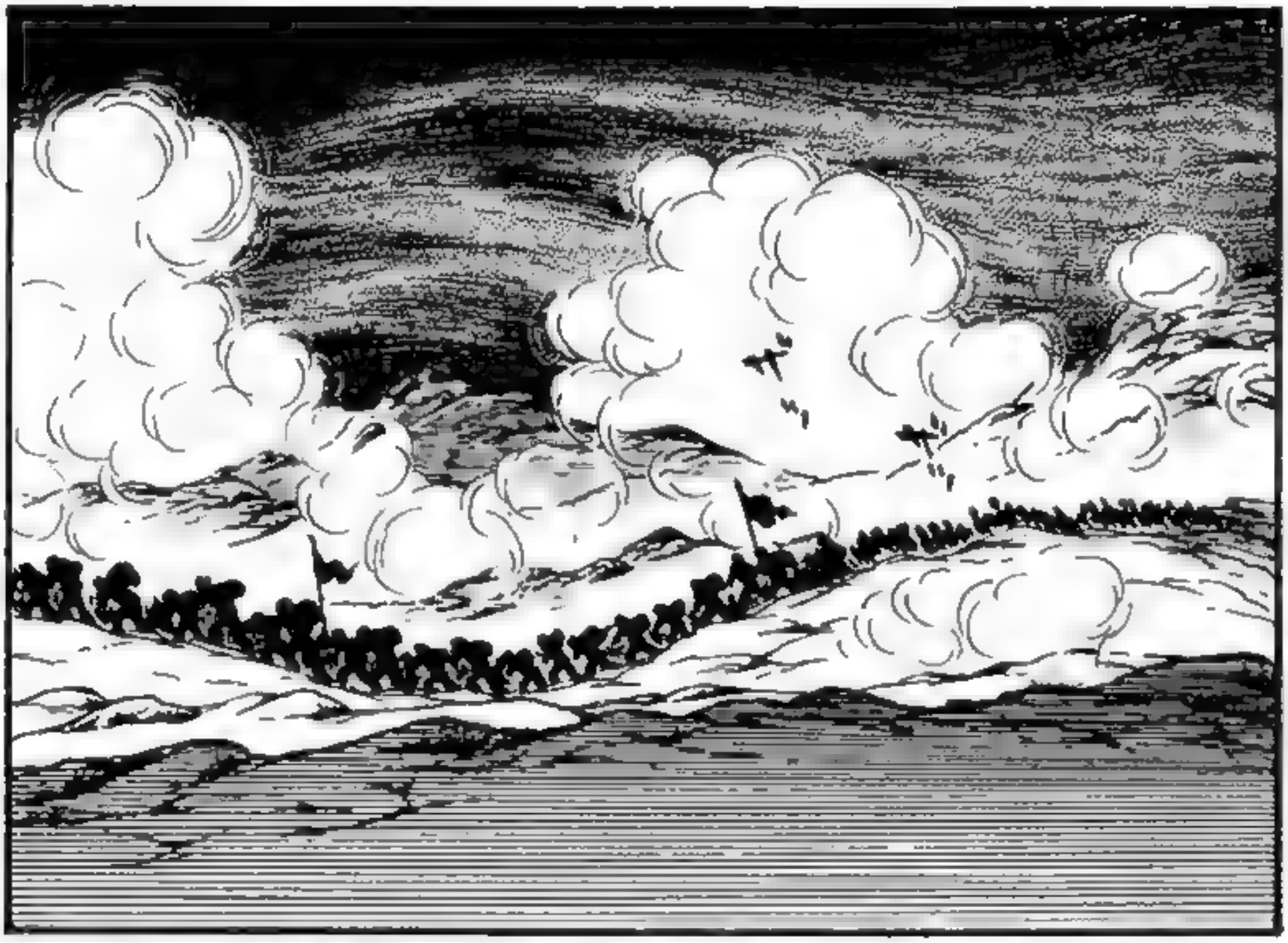
THEN SO BE IT. I SHALL PURSUE DONG ZHUO ALONE!

I SIMPLY CANNOT UNDERSTAND YOUR REASONING AT ALL.

NNGHH! TO THINK THAT I HAVE TO LET THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY...!

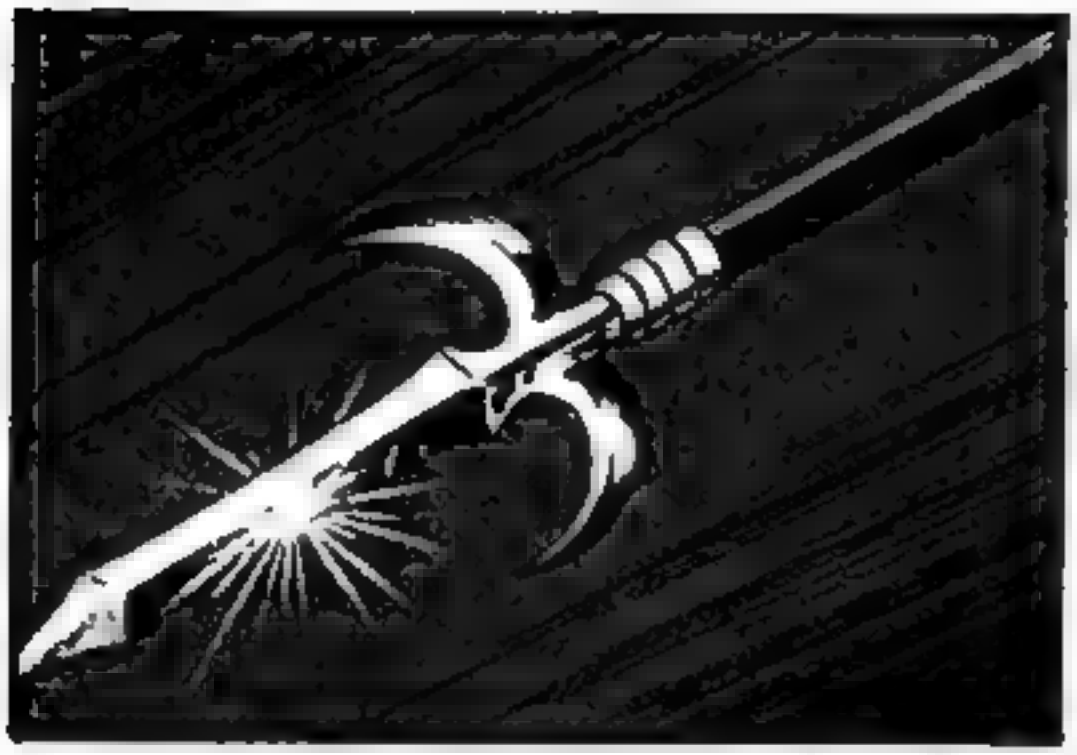

FOLLOW ME, MY MEN!

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE DONG ZHUO'S HEAD!
DONG ZHUO IS NOT FAR FROM HERE!



P-PLEASE SIR, MY FATHER IS VERY ILL AND CANNOT WALK VERY FAST...!

MOVE IT! THE ONES LAGGING BEHIND WILL BE CUT DOWN!



IS THAT SO? WELL THEN, ALLOW ME TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR PROBLEM, MI-ADY.

HEH HEH, NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

GYARGHH!

MOVE IT PEOPLE UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE THIS CORPSE!

CUZ I'LL TAKE REAALLL GOOD CARE OF YA, OKAY?

NO NEED TO WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OVER YOUR DEAR OLD DAD'S DEATH!

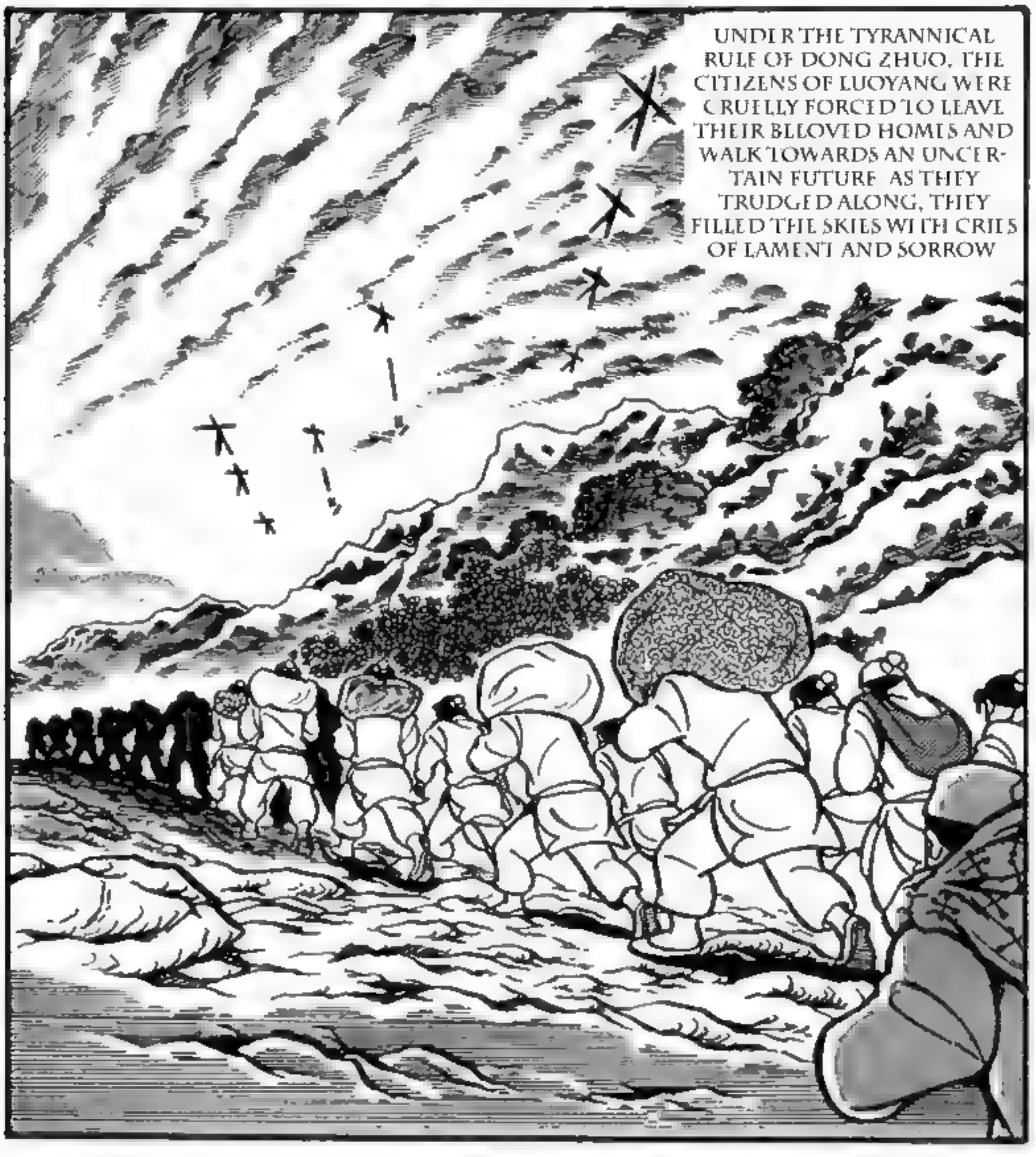
EEK!

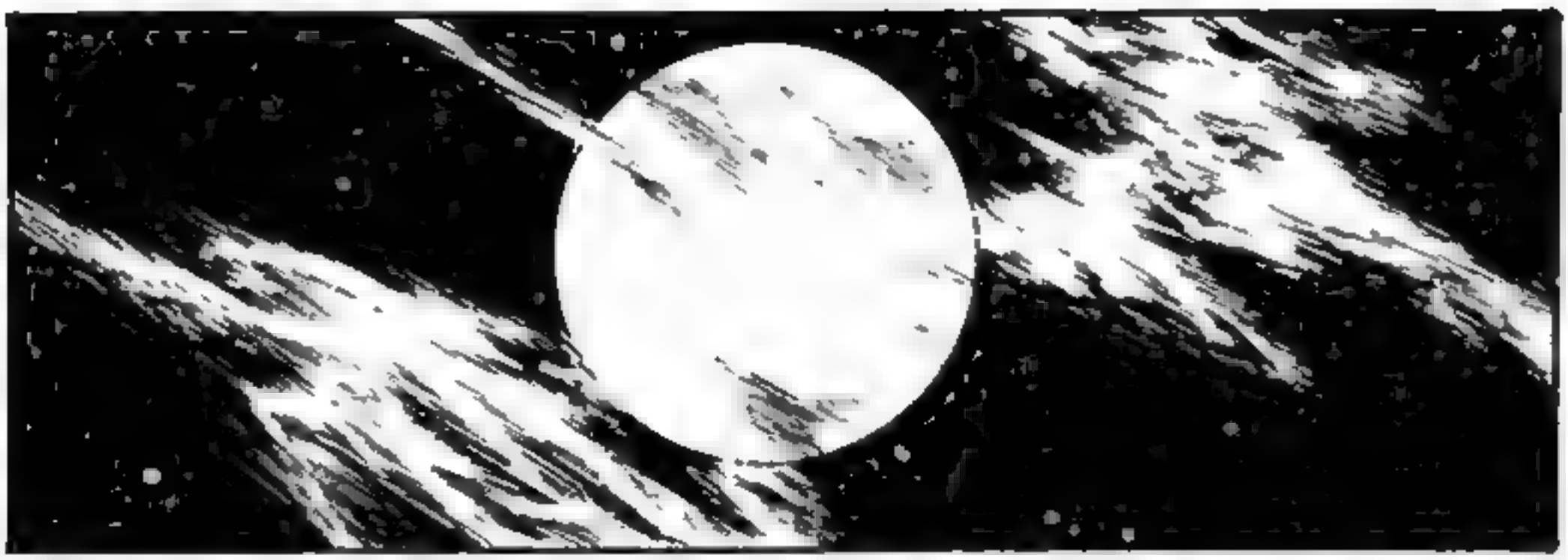
KYAAA!

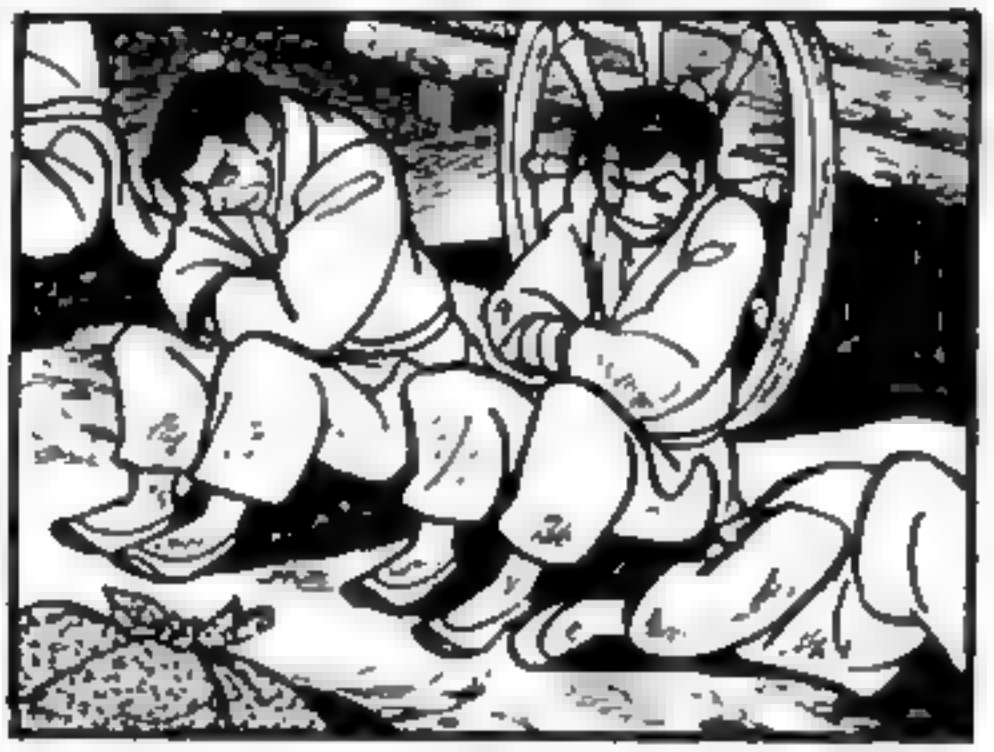
HAHAHA! DON'T BE SHY! I WON'T BITE, YOU KNOW!

THE FUCK ARE YOU ALL STARING AT!? GET A MOVE ON UNLESS YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR HEADS!

HELP!!!
NOW COME WITH ME!


UNDER THE TYRANNICAL RULE OF DONG ZHUO, THE CITIZENS OF LUOYANG WERE CRUELLY FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR BELOVED HOMES AND WALK TOWARDS AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. AS THEY TRUDGED ALONG, THEY FILLED THE SKIES WITH CRIES OF LAMENT AND SORROW





ANNHILATION OF CAO CAO'S FORCES

CHANCELLOR DONG ZHUO!

WHAT IS IT NOW AT THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT!?

WHAT!

CAO CAO'S ARMY OF 10,000 ARE HEADING TOWARDS HERE AS I SPEAK!

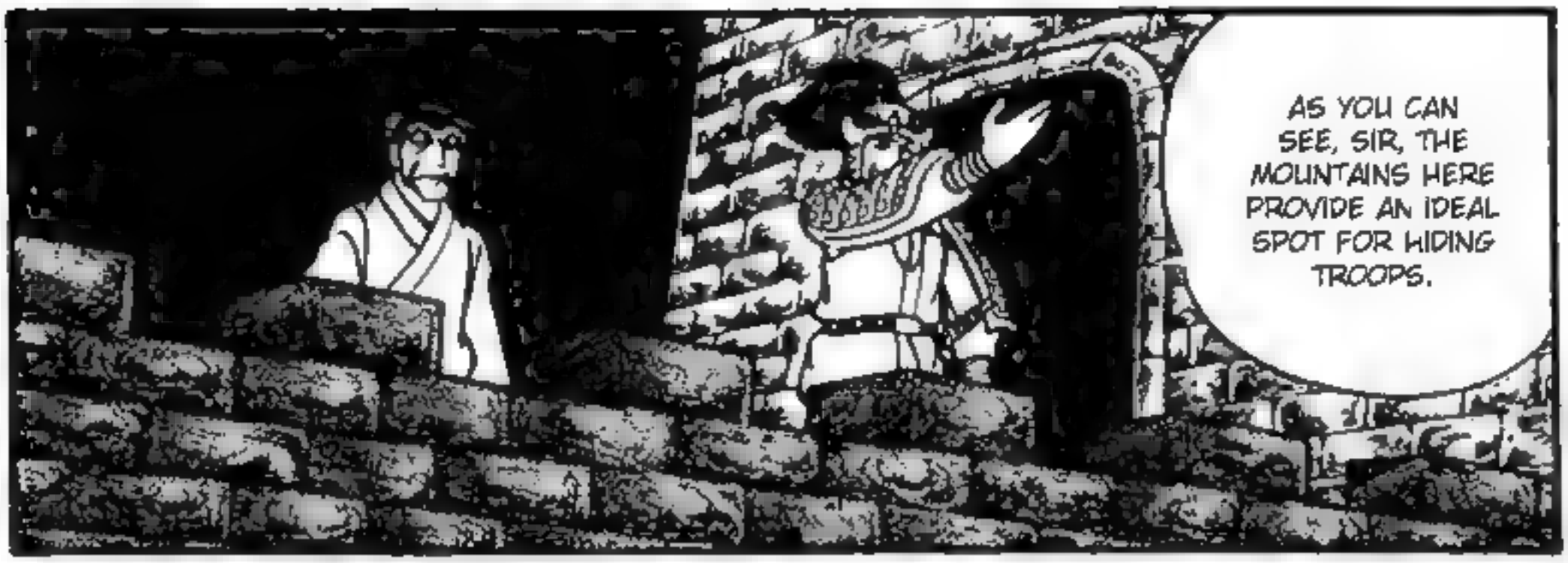
LI RU, WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?

HOW DARE THAT LITTLE RUNT FORGET HOW NICELY I USED TO TREAT HIM...!

THIS WAY, SIR.

I ASSUME YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN?

WORRY NOT, SIR.


AS YOU CAN SEE, SIR, THE MOUNTAINS HERE PROVIDE AN IDEAL SPOT FOR HIDING TROOPS.

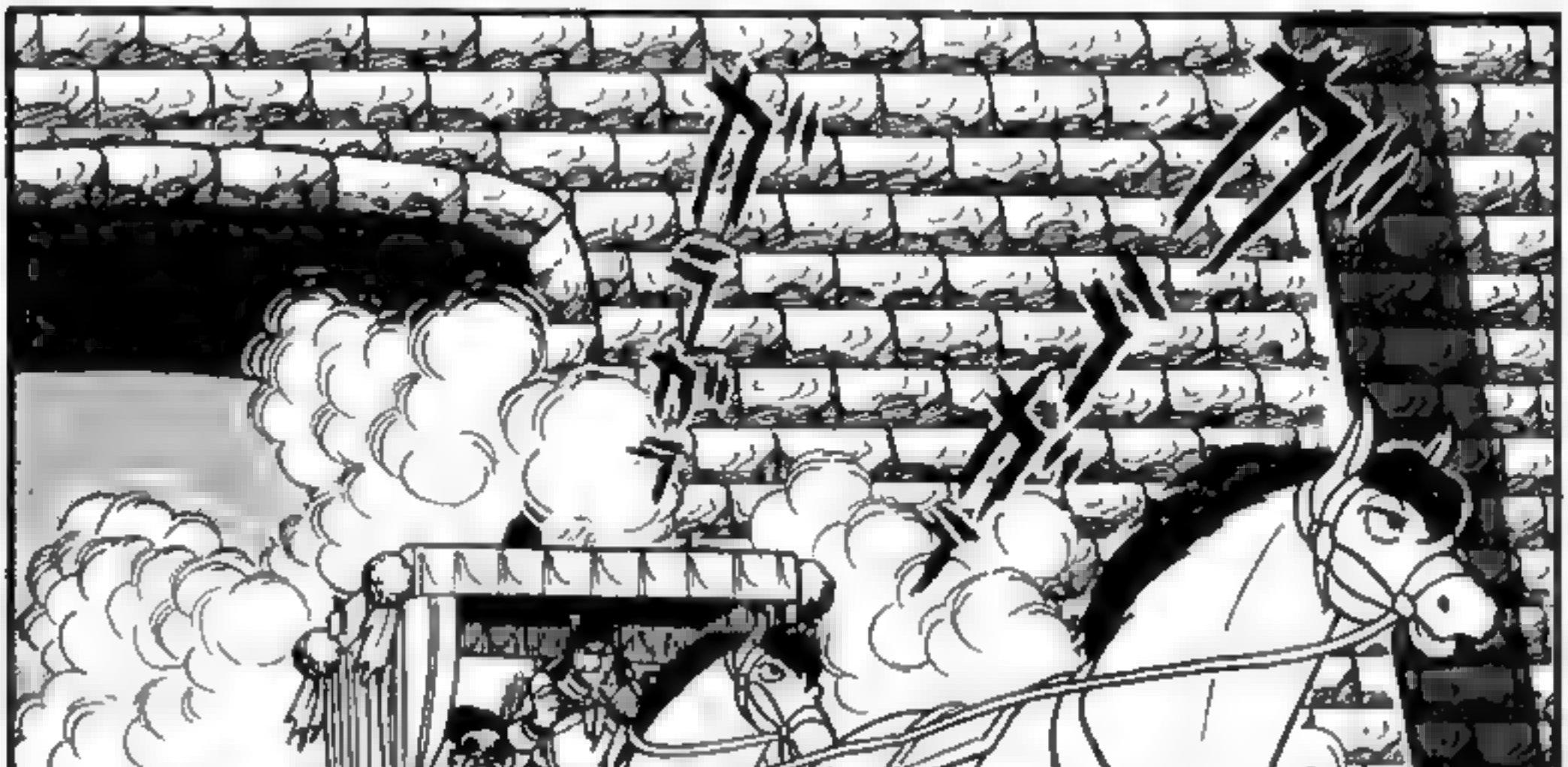
I AM CERTAIN THAT CAO CAO WILL BLINDLY FOLLOW DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS DUE TO HIS ARROGANCE FROM A FEW VICTORIES.

BY HIDING TROOPS AT THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN PASS AND MAKING A SURPRISE ATTACK, CAO CAO'S ARMY CAN EASILY BE DEFEATED.

FINE.

PLEASE LEAVE THE MATTER OF CAO CAO FOR ME TO DEAL WITH WHILE SIR CONTINUES TO HEAD TOWARDS CHANG'AN.

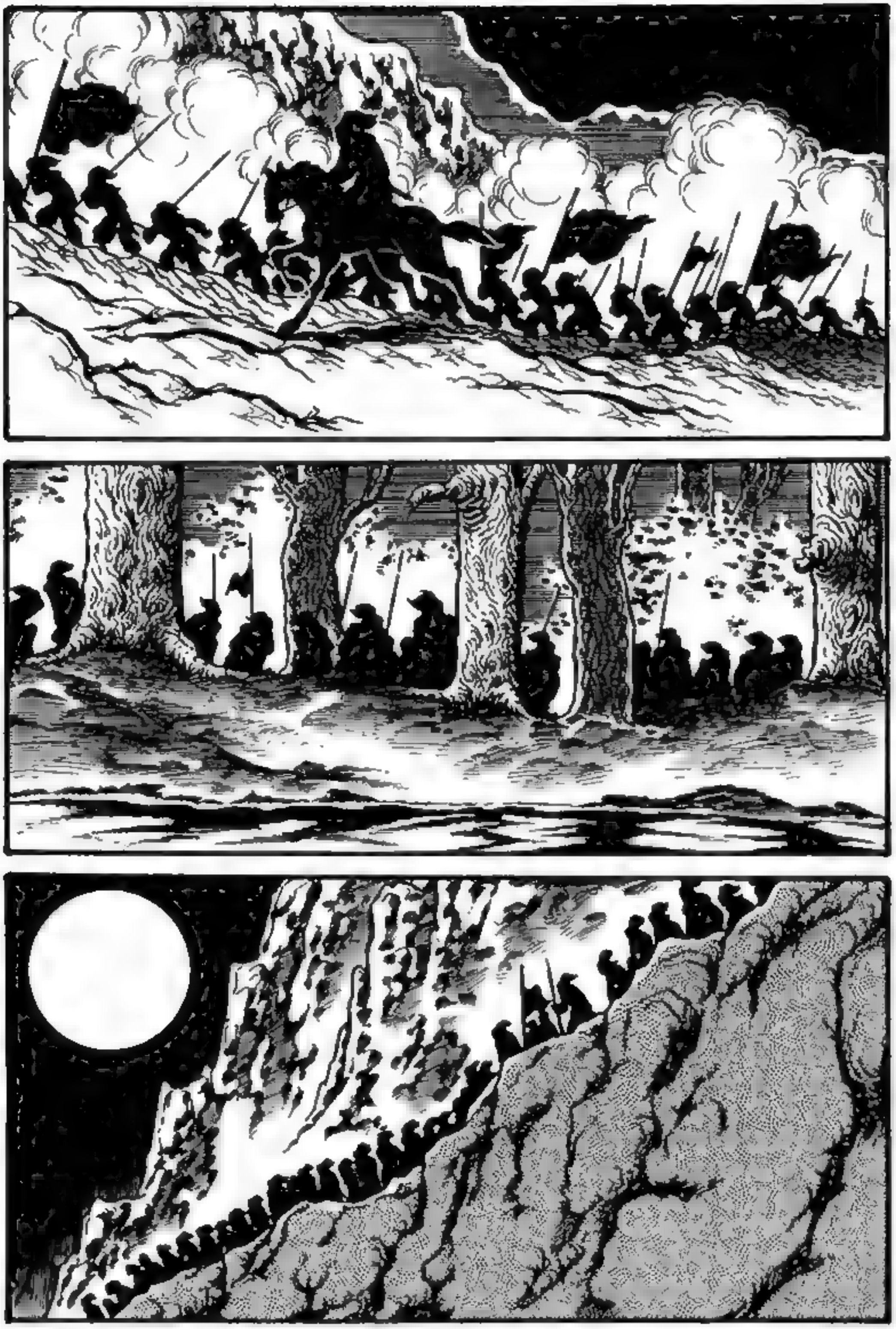
MEN, PREPARE TO LEAVE AT ONCE!

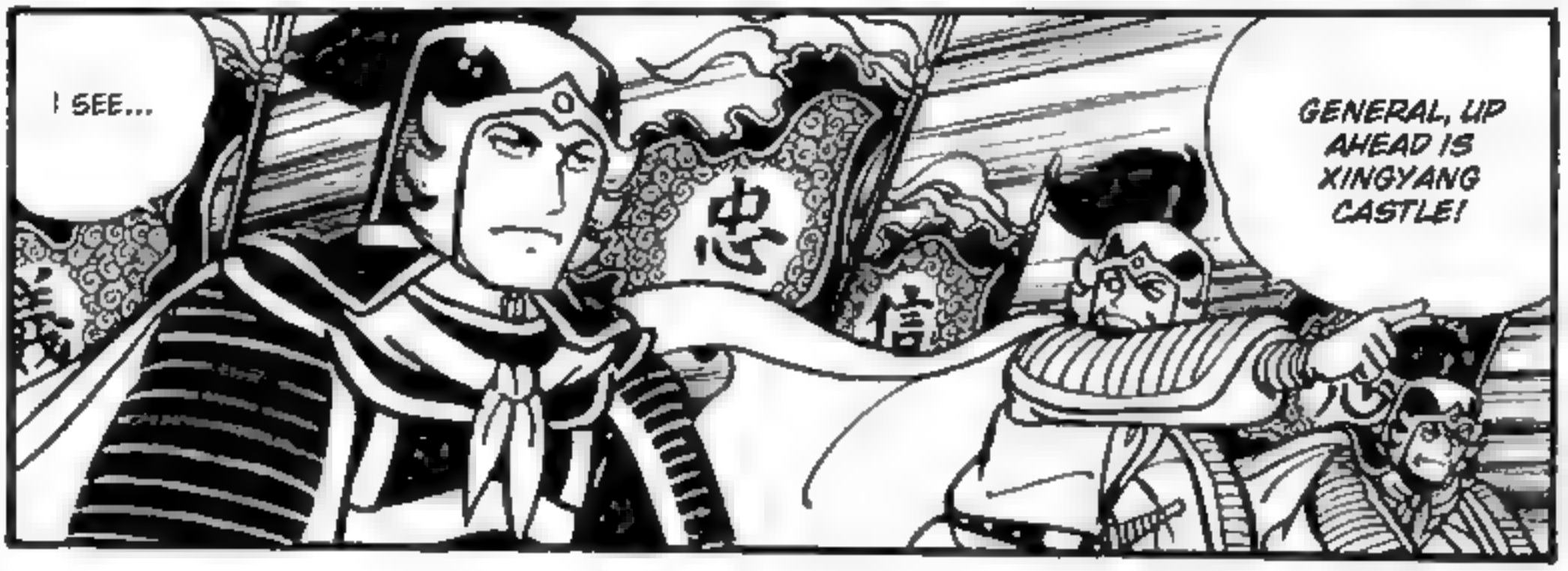


STOP DRAGGING THOSE FEET AND MOVE!
THOSE WHO FALL BEHIND WILL BE KILLED!

ONLY ONE COMPANY IS TO STAY HERE TO DEFEND THE CASTLE. THE REST OF YOU, FOLLOW ME INTO THE MOUN-TAINS!

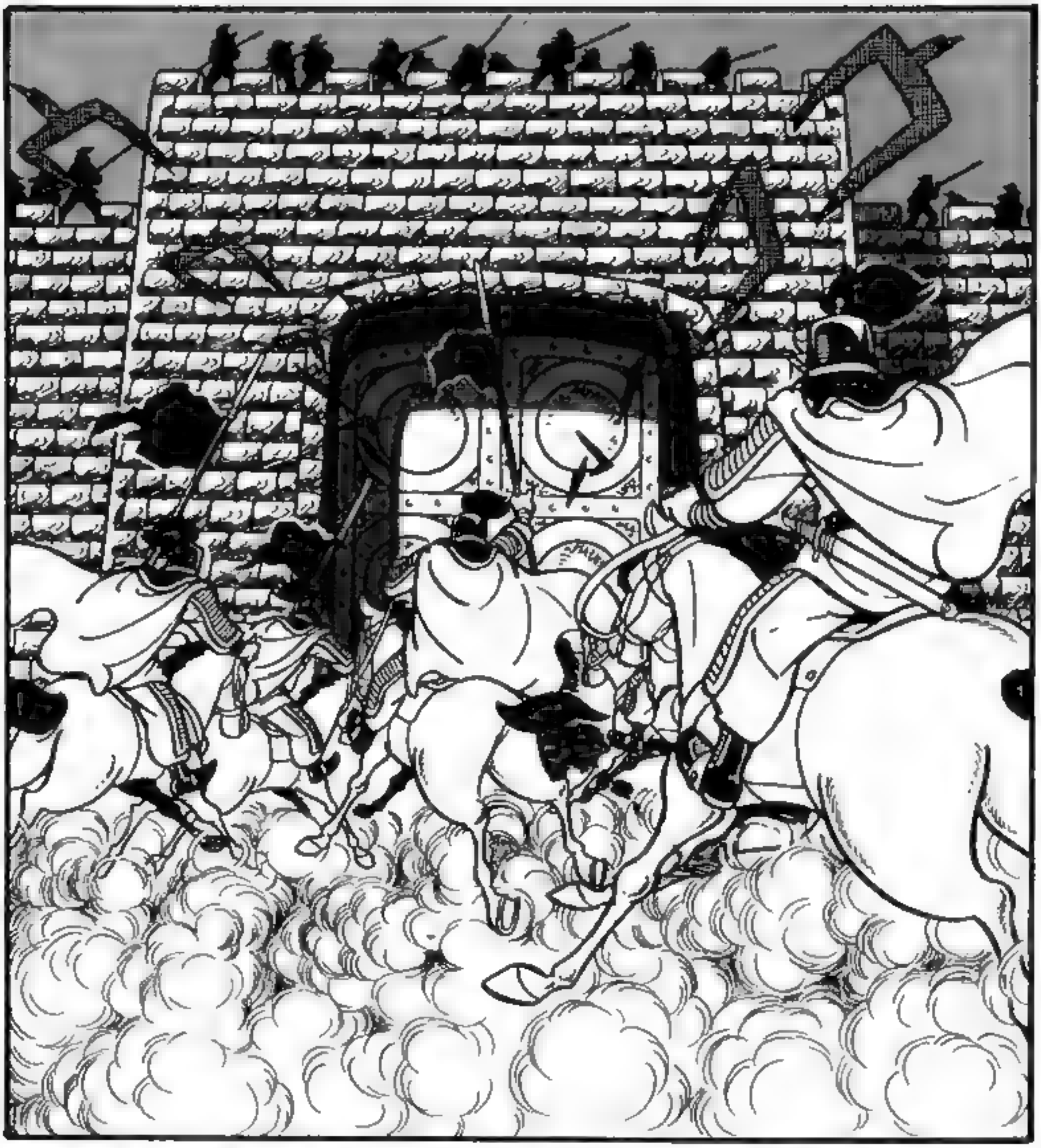
CLOSE THE CASTLE GATES!

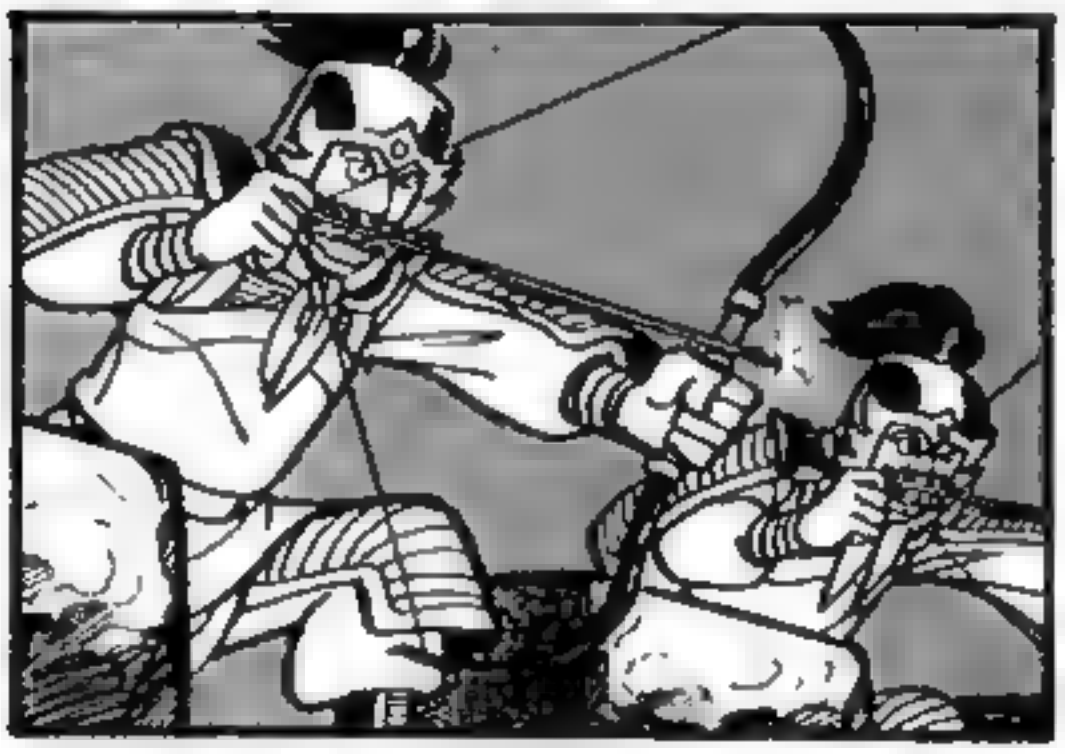


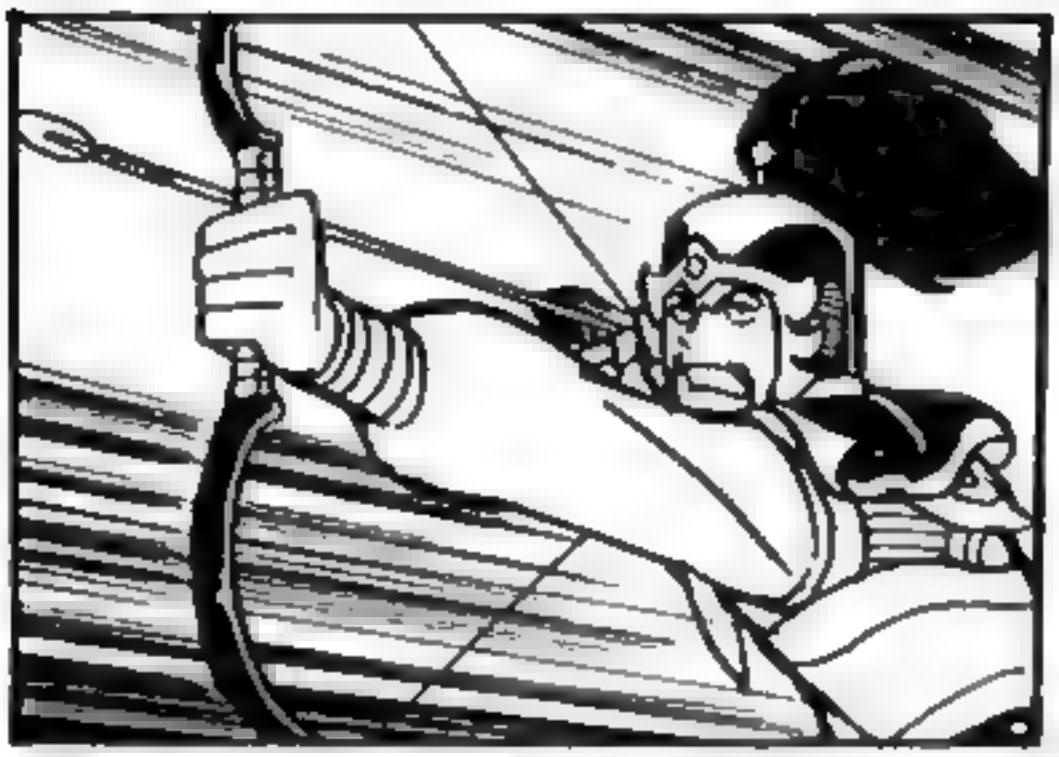

I SEE...
忠
信
GENERAL, UP AHEAD IS XINGYANG CASTLE!

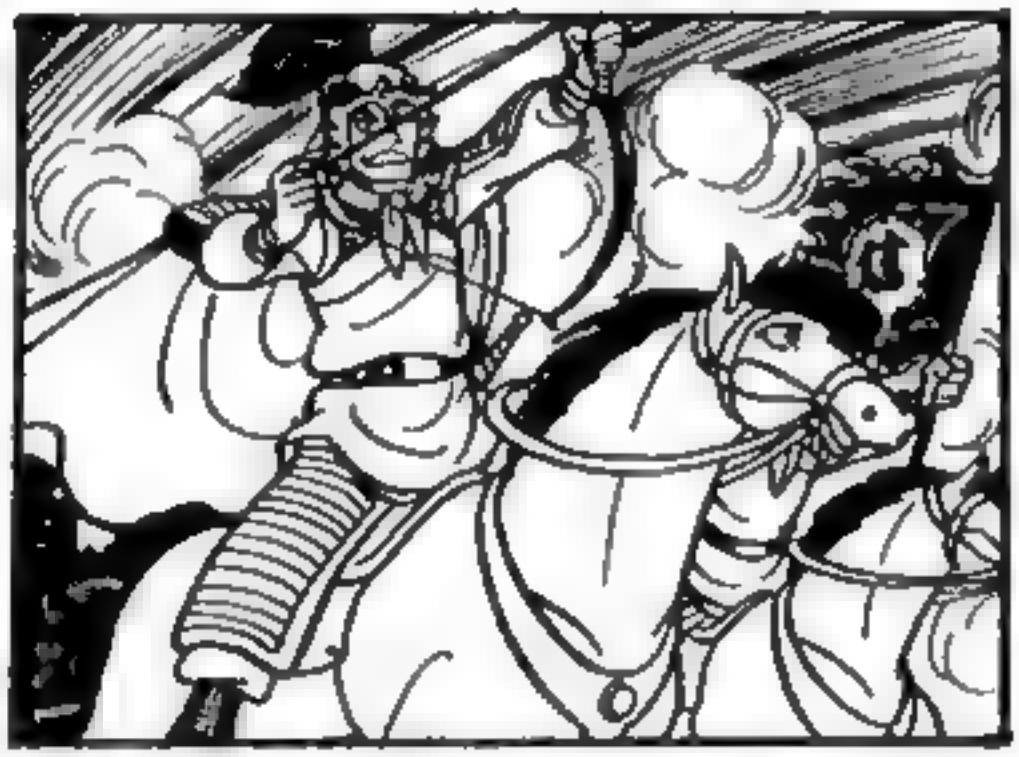
CHARGE!

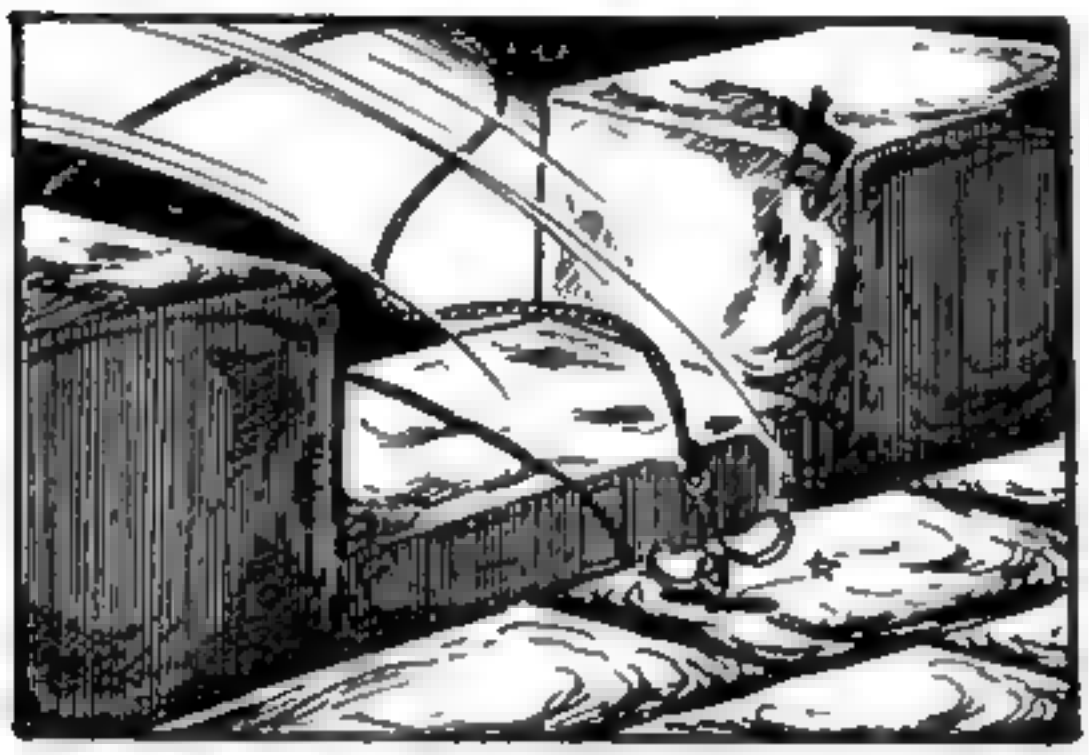
A PUNY CASTLE LIKE THAT STANDS NO CHANCE BEFORE US!

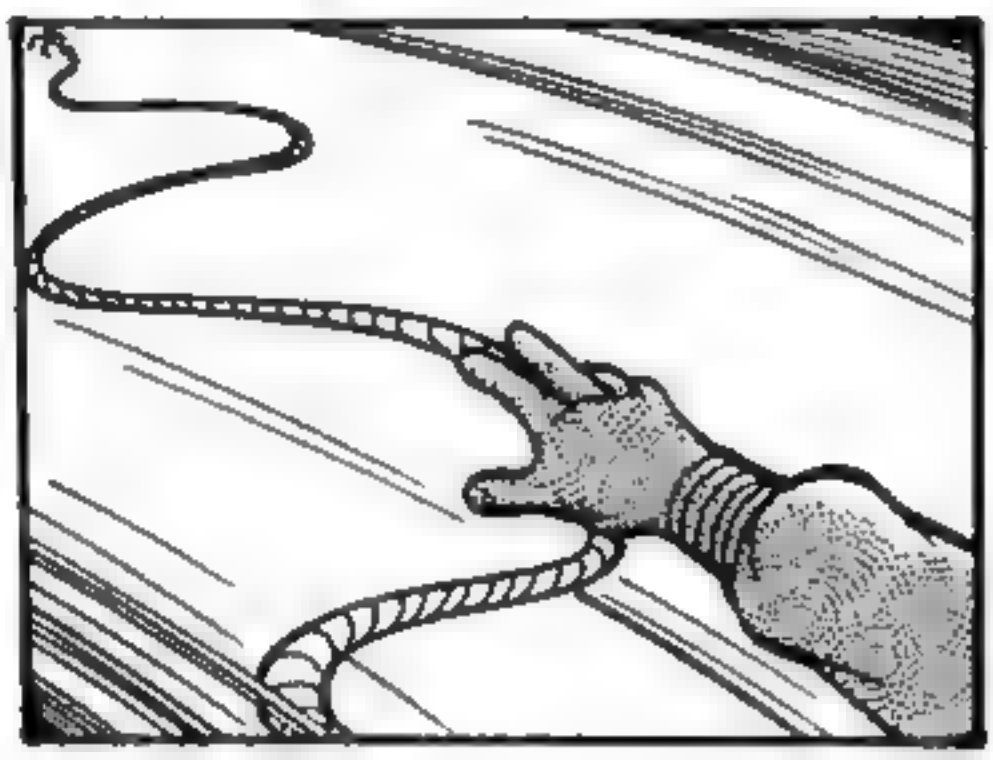












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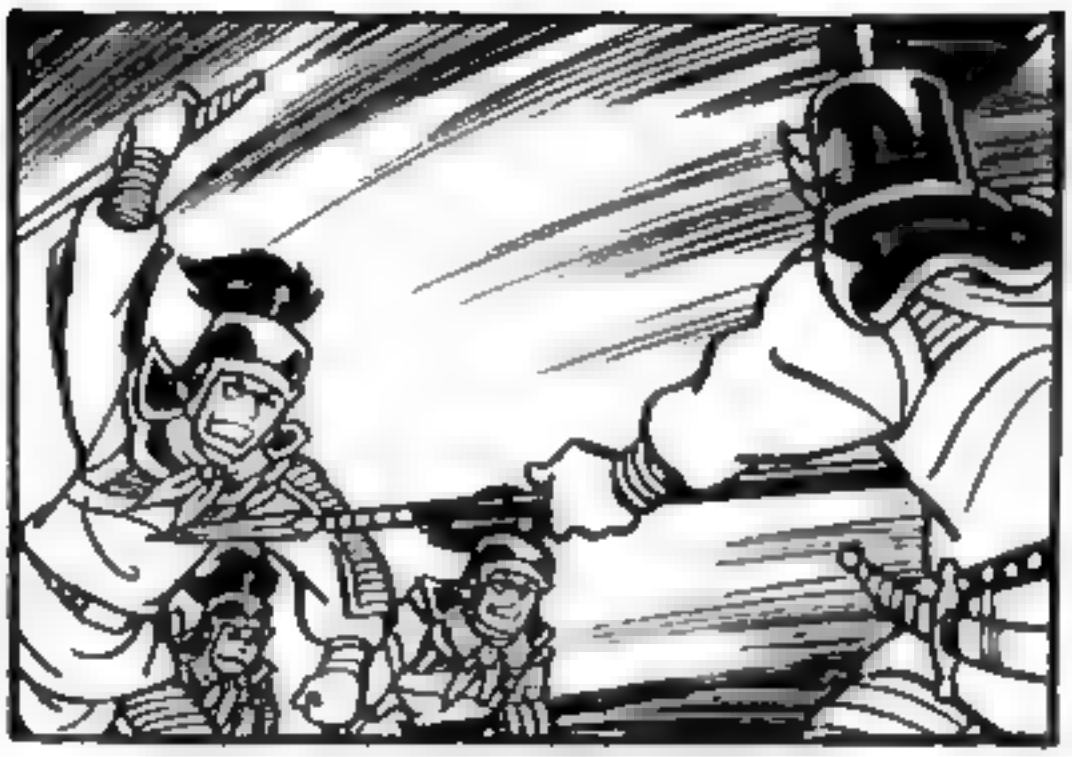
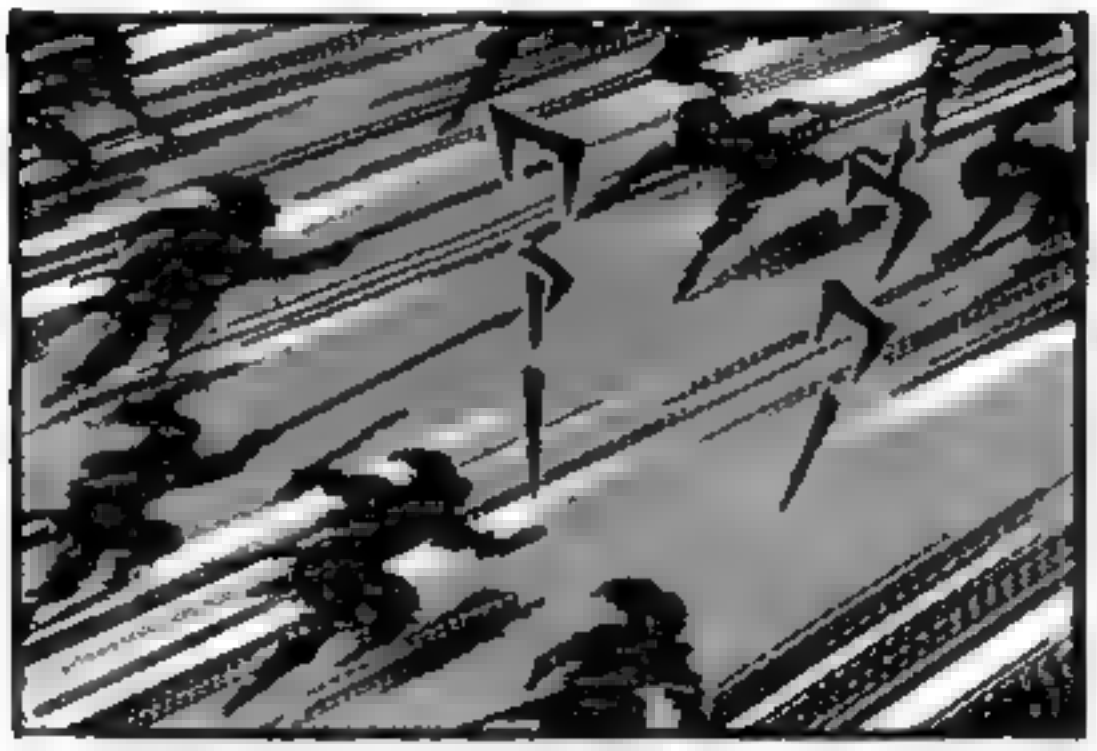
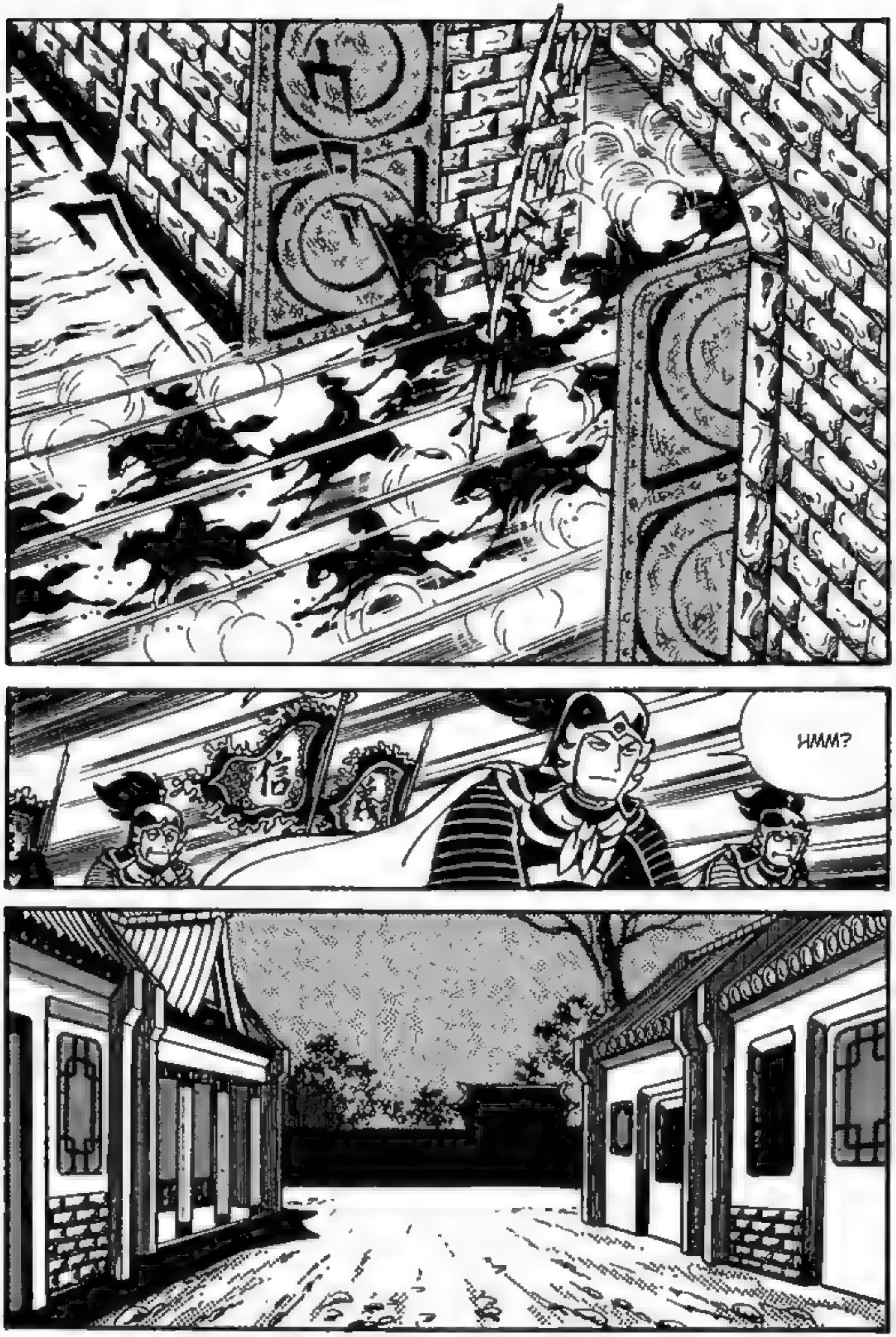


OPEN THE CASTLE GATES FOR OUR MEN OUTSIDE!



THE GATE HAS OPENED! CHARGE!

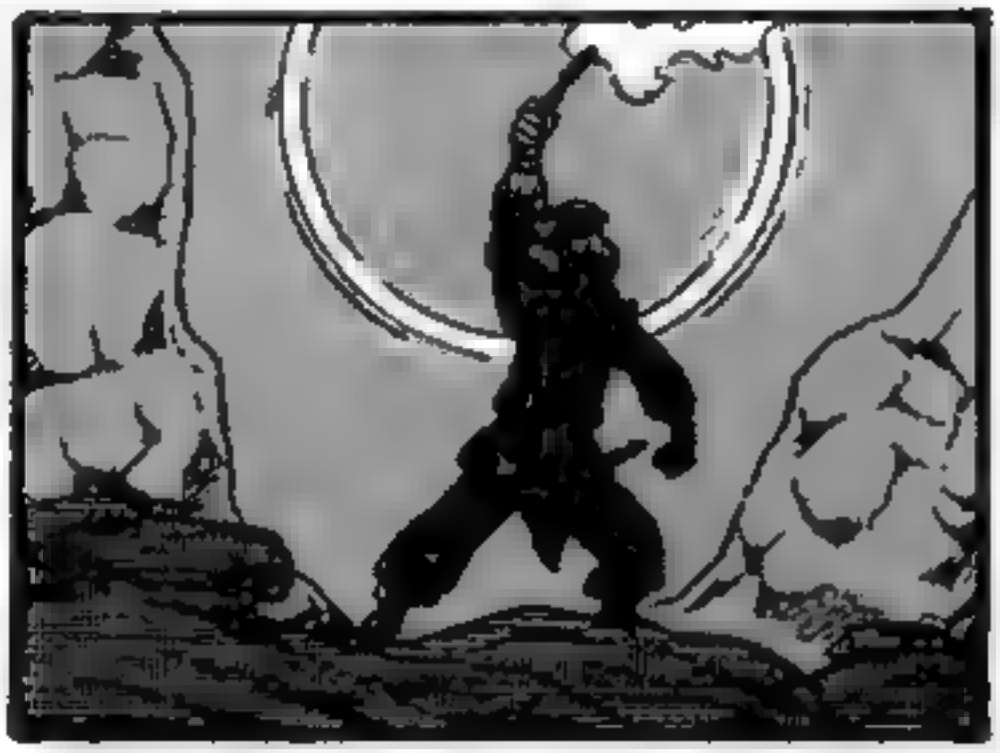

信
HMM?

DAMN IT, AGAIN!?

GENERAL, IT SEEMS THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY FLED FROM XINGYANG!

KEEP ON THE PURSUIT! DONG ZHUO COULD NOT HAVE GONE VERY FAR!

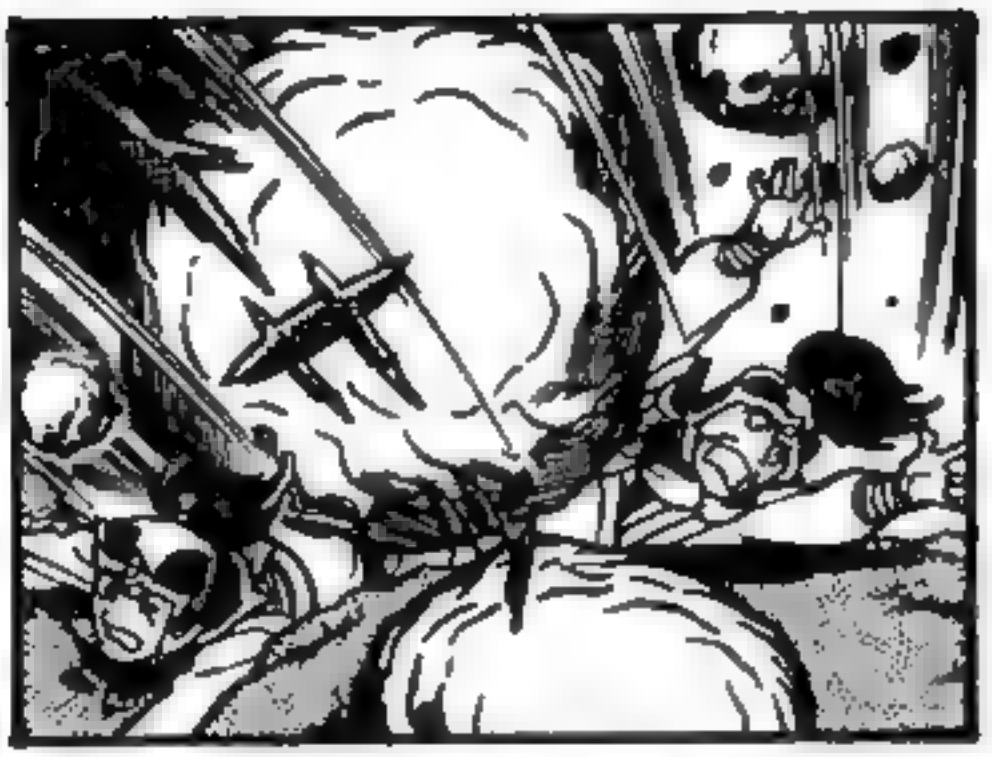
AH!



NNGHHH!

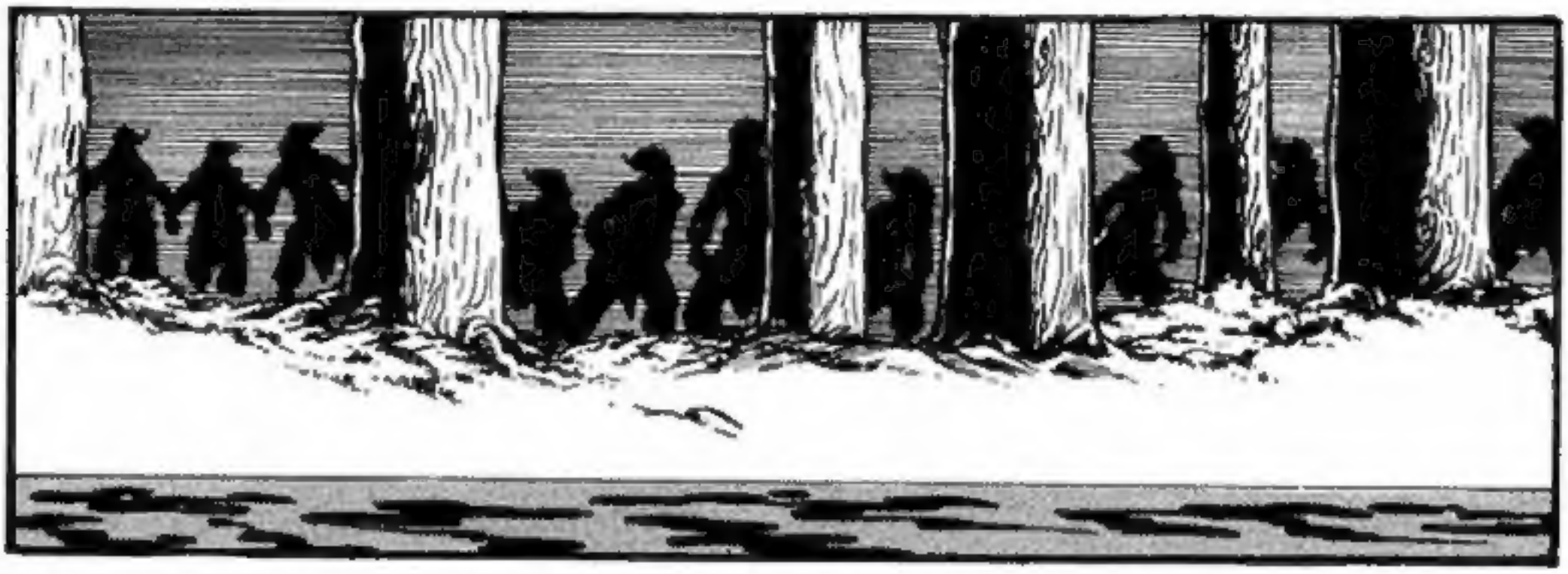
GENERAL, IT'S A TRAP!

NOW!



RETREAT!
RETREAT!

信



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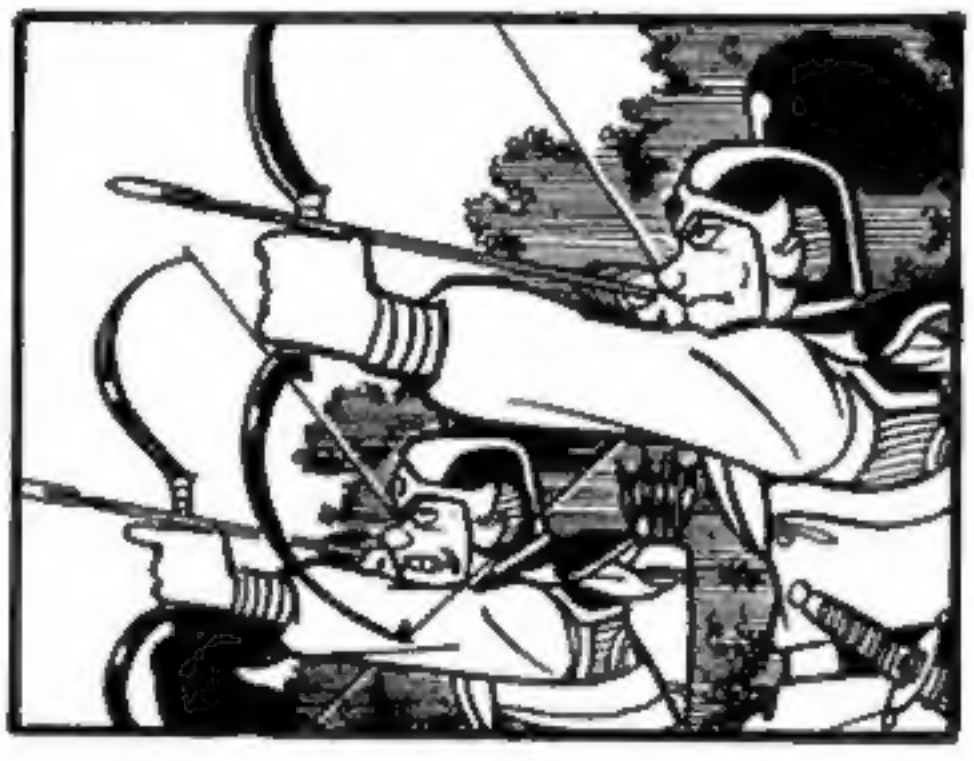
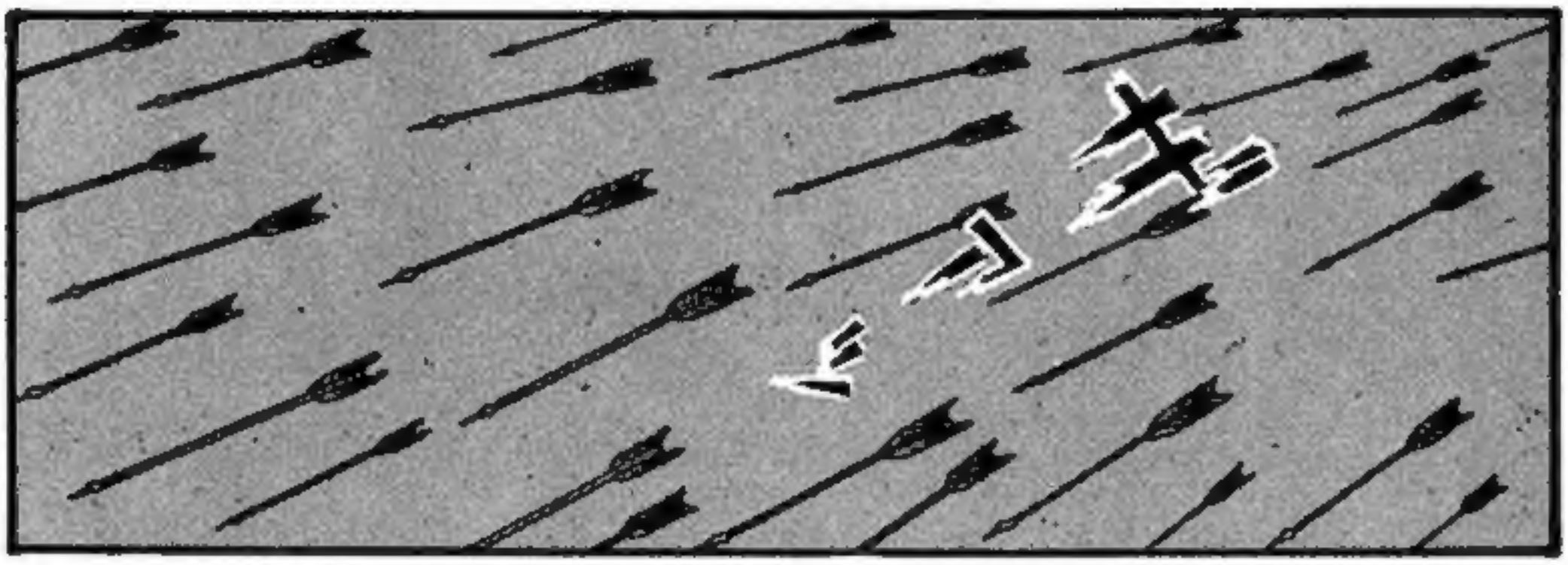
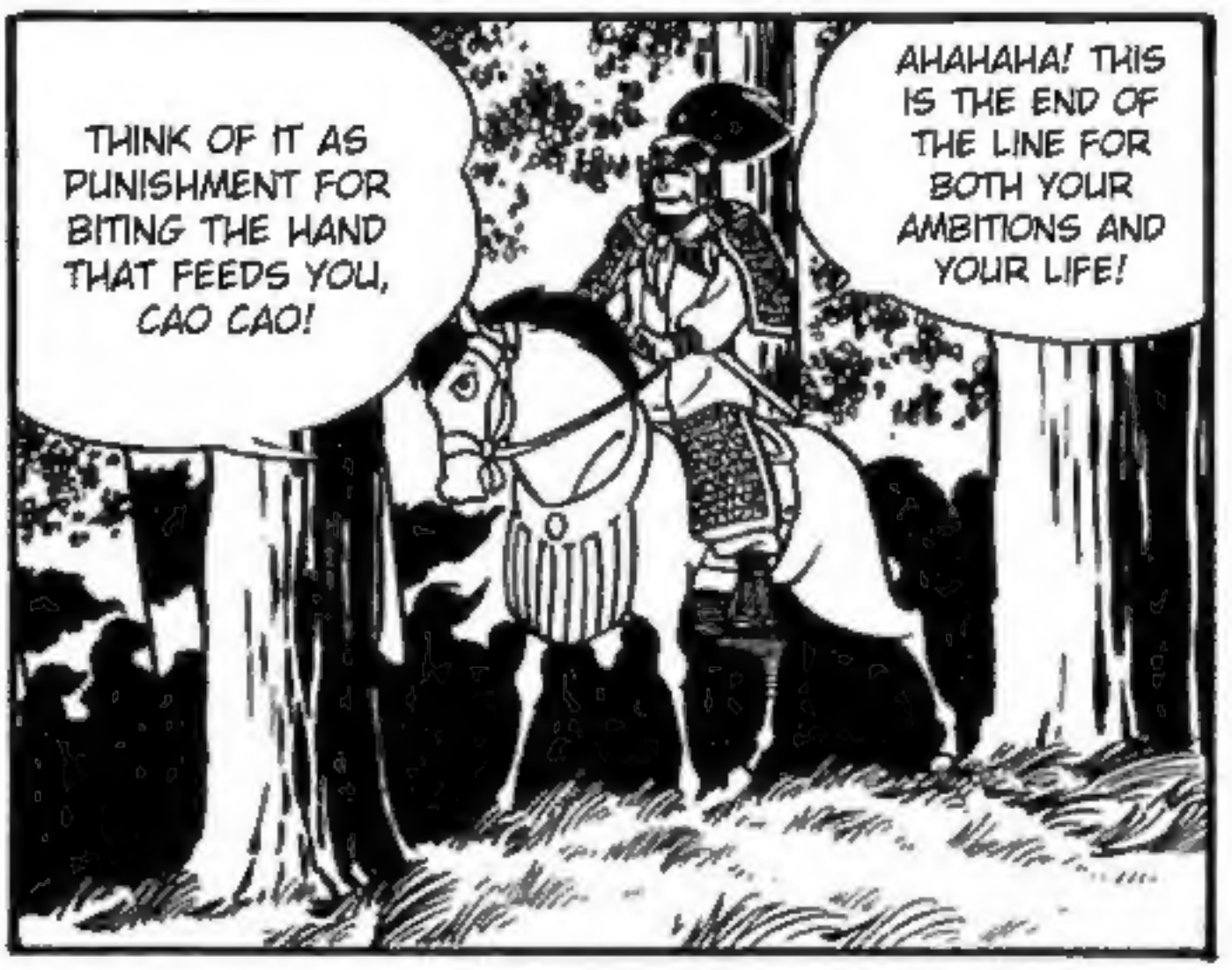




HOW COULD THIS BE...!?
AGHH!


THINK OF IT AS PUNISHMENT FOR BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU, CAO CAO!
AHAHAHA! THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR BOTH YOUR AMBITIONS AND YOUR LIFE!

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横山 光輝

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